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*Geo. W. Piddle Esq. 29*  
THE LAWS RELATING *Nov 25*  
*with the deposits of*  
*J. R. Snowden.*

TO THE

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES,  
  
AND ITS BRANCHES.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE DIRECTOR, FOR THE USE OF THE  
MINT AND BRANCHES.

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PHILADELPHIA:  
PRINTED BY B. F. MIFFLIN, 217 WALNUT ST.  
1859.

U.S. laws, statutes, &c. Currency law

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# OFFICERS OF THE MINTS.

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## 1.—MINT AT PHILADELPHIA.

DIRECTOR,  
TREASURER,  
CHIEF COINER,  
MELTER AND REFINER,  
ENGRAVER,  
ASSAYER,

JAMES ROSS SNOWDEN.  
JAMES H. WALTON.  
GEORGE K. CHILDS.  
JAMES C. BOOTH.  
JAMES B. LONGACRE.  
JACOB R. ECKFELDT.

## 2.—BRANCH MINT, NEW ORLEANS.

SUPERINTENDENT,  
TREASURER,  
MELTER AND REFINER,  
COINER,

WILLIAM A. ELMORE.  
A. J. GUIROT.  
M. F. BONZANO.  
B. F. TAYLOR.

## 3.—BRANCH MINT, SAN FRANCISCO.

SUPERINTENDENT,  
TREASURER,  
ASSAYER,  
MELTER AND REFINER,  
COINER,

CHARLES H. HEMPSTEAD.  
J. R. SNYDER.  
J. H. SNYDER.  
L. A. GARNETT.  
R. W. SLOCUM.

## 4.—BRANCH MINT, CHARLOTTE, N. C.

SUPERINTENDENT AND TREASURER,  
ASSAYER,  
COINER,

GREEN W. CALDWELL.  
JOHN H. GIBBON.  
EMMOR GRAHAM.

## 5.—BRANCH MINT, DAHLONEGA, GEO.

SUPERINTENDENT AND TREASURER,  
ASSAYER,  
COINER,

JULIUS M. PATTON.  
ISAAC L. TODD.  
JOHN D. FIELD, Jr.

## 6.—ASSAY OFFICE, NEW YORK.

SUPERINTENDENT,  
TREASURER,  
ASSAYER,  
MELTER AND REFINER,

SAM F. BUTTERWORTH.  
JOHN J. CISCO.  
JOHN TORREY.  
EDWARD N. KENT.

# GENERAL MINT LAW.

## AN ACT

SUPPLEMENTARY TO THE ACT, ENTITLED

### “AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MINT AND REGULATING THE COINS OF THE UNITED STATES.”

SECTION 1.—Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the officers of the Mint of the United States shall be a Director, a Treasurer, an Assayer, a Melter and Refiner, a Chief Coiner and an Engraver, to be appointed by the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Officers of the Mint.

How appointed.

SEC. 2.—And be it further enacted, That the respective duties of the officers of the Mint shall be as follows:

Their duties.

*First.* The Director shall have the control and management of the Mint, the superintendence of the officers and persons employed therein, and the general regulation and supervision of the business of the several branches. And in the month of January of every year\* he shall make report to the President of the United States of the operations of the Mint, and its branches for the year preceding, and also to the Secretary of the Treasury, from time to time, as said Secretary shall require, setting forth all the operations of the Mint, subsequent to the last report made upon the subject.

1. Of the Director.

\* (Now at end of fiscal year. See Sec. 7. Act of Feb. 21, 1857, page 51.)

2. Of the  
Treasurer.

*Second.* The Treasurer shall receive, and safely keep, all moneys which shall be for the use and support of the Mint; shall keep all the current accounts of the Mint, and pay all moneys due by the Mint, on warrants from the Director. He shall receive all bullion brought to the Mint for coinage; shall be the keeper of all bullion and coin in the Mint, except while the same is legally placed in the hands of other officers; and shall, on warrants from the Director, deliver all coins struck at the Mint to the persons to whom they shall be legally payable. And he shall keep regular and faithful accounts of all the transactions of the Mint in bullion and coins, both with the officers of the Mint and the depositors; and shall present, quarter yearly, to the Treasury Department of the United States, according to such forms as shall be prescribed by that department, an account of the receipts and disbursements of the Mint, for the purpose of being adjusted and settled.

3. Of the  
Assayer.

*Third.* The Assayer shall carefully assay all metals used in coinage, whenever such assays are required in the operations of the Mint; he shall also make assays of coins whenever instructed to do so by the Director.

4. Of the  
Melter and  
Refiner.

*Fourth.* The Melter and Refiner shall execute all the operations which are necessary in order to form ingots of standard silver or gold, suitable for the Chief Coiner, from the metals legally delivered to him for that purpose.

5. Of the  
Chief Coiner.

*Fifth.* The Chief Coiner shall execute all the operations which are necessary in order to form coins, conformable in all respects to the law, from the standard silver and gold ingots, and the copper planchets, legally delivered to him for this purpose.

6. Of the  
Engraver.

*Sixth.* The Engraver shall prepare and engrave, with the legal devices and inscriptions, all the dies used in the coinage of the Mint and its Branches.

Director to  
appoint as  
assistants and  
clerks.

SEC. 3.—And be it further enacted, That the Director shall appoint, with the approbation of the President, assistants to the Assayer, Melter and Refiner, Chief

Coiner and Engraver, and clerks for the Director and [Treasurer]\* whenever, on representation made by the Director to the President, it shall be the opinion of the President that such assistants or clerks are necessary. And it shall be the duty of the assistants to aid their principals in the execution of their respective offices, and of the clerks to perform such duties as shall be prescribed for them by the Director.

\*(See Resolution March 3 1851, page 86.)

Their duties

SEC. 4.—And be it further enacted, That whenever any officer of the Mint shall be temporarily absent, on account of sickness, or any other sufficient cause, it shall be lawful for the Director, with the consent of the said officer, to appoint some person attached to the Mint to act in the place of such officer during his absence: and to employ such workmen and servants in the Mint as he shall from time to time find necessary.

Officers pro tempore.

Workmen and servants.

SEC. 5.—And be it further enacted, That every officer, assistant and clerk of the Mint, shall, before he enters upon the execution of his office, take an oath or affirmation before some judge of the United States, or judge of the superior court, or any court of record of any State, faithfully and diligently to perform the duties thereof.

Oath of office prescribed.

SEC. 6.—And be it further enacted, That the following officers of the Mint, before entering upon the execution of their respective offices, shall become bound to the United States, with one or more sureties, to the satisfaction of the Secretary of the Treasury, in the sums hereinafter mentioned, with condition for the faithful and diligent performance of the duties of their offices, viz.:—The Treasurer in the sum of ten thousand dollars; the Assayer in the sum of five thousand dollars; the Melter and Refiner in the sum of ten thousand dollars; and the Chief Coiner in the sum of ten thousand dollars. And that similar bonds may also be required of the assistants and clerks, in such sums as the Director shall determine, with the approbation of the Secretary of the Treasury.

Bond and security required.

Salaries of  
the officers,  
assistants,  
and clerks.

SEC. 7.—And be it further enacted, That there shall be allowed to the officers of the Mint the following salaries per annum:—To the Director, for his services, including travelling expenses incurred in visiting the different Branches, and all other charges whatever, three thousand five hundred dollars; to the Treasurer, Assayer, Melter and Refiner, Chief Coiner, and Engraver, each two thousand dollars; to the assistants and clerks, such annual salaries shall be allowed as the Director may determine, with the approbation of the

See page 50,  
Act of August  
4, 1854.

President:—Provided, That an assistant shall not receive more than fifteen hundred dollars, and that a clerk shall not receive more than twelve hundred

Wages of the  
workmen  
and servants.

dollars. To the workmen and servants shall be allowed such wages, to be determined by the Director, as may be customary and reasonable, according to their respective stations and occupations; and that the salaries provided for in this section shall be payable in quarterly instalments.

Standard for  
gold and sil-  
ver coins.

SECT. 8.—And be it further enacted, That the standard for both gold and silver coins of the United States shall hereafter be such, that of one thousand parts by weight, nine hundred shall be of pure metal, and one hundred of alloy; and the alloy of the silver coins shall be of copper, and the alloy of the gold coins shall be of copper and silver, provided that the silver do not exceed one-half of the whole alloy.

Alloys.

Weight of  
silver coins.

SECT. 9.—And be it further enacted, That of the silver coins, the dollar shall be of the weight of four hundred and twelve and one-half grains; [the half dollar of the weight of two hundred and six and one-fourth grains; the quarter dollar of the weight of one hundred and three and one-eighth grains; the dime, or tenth part of a dollar, of the weight of forty-one and one-fourth grains; and the half dime, or twentieth part of a dollar, of the weight of twenty and five-eighths grains.] And that dollars, [half dollars, quarter dollars, dimes, and half dimes,] shall be legal tenders of

payment, according to their nominal value, for any sums whatever.\*

SECT. 10.—And be it further enacted, That of the gold coins, the weight of the eagle shall be two hundred and fifty-eight grains; that of the half eagle one hundred and twenty-nine grains; and that of the quarter eagle sixty-four and one-half grains. And that, for all sums whatever, the eagle shall be a legal tender of payment for ten dollars; the half eagle for five dollars; and the quarter eagle for two and a half dollars.\*

SECT. 11.—And be it further enacted, That the silver coins heretofore issued at the Mint of the United States, and the gold coins issued since the thirty-first day of July, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-four, shall continue to be legal tenders of payment for their nominal values, on the same terms as if they were of the coinage provided for by this act.

SECT. 12.—And be it further enacted, That of the copper coins, the weight of the cent shall be one hundred and sixty-eight grains, and the weight of the half cent eighty-four grains.\* And the cent shall be considered of the value of one-hundredth part of a dollar, and the half cent of the value of one two-hundredth part of a dollar.

SECT. 13.—And be it further enacted, That upon the coins struck at the Mint, there shall be the following devices and legends: Upon one side of each of said coins, there shall be an impression emblematic of liberty, with an inscription of the word LIBERTY, and the year of the coinage; and upon the reverse of each of the gold and silver coins, there shall be the figure or representation of an eagle, with the inscription UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, and a designation of the value of the coin; but on the reverse of the dime and half dime, cent and half cent, the figure of the eagle shall be omitted.\*

SECT. 14.—And be it further enacted, That gold and silver bullion, brought to the mint for coinage, shall be

\*See pages 41 and 42. Acts of Feb. 21, '53, Mar. 3, 1851. Weight of gold coins.

\*See pages 40 and 42. Acts of Mar. 3, '49, Feb. 21, 1853.

What coins of old standard are legal tender.

Weight of copper coins. \* See page 51, Act of Feb. 21, 1857.

Their value. Coinage of the half cent discontinued under the provisions of the Act of Feb. 21, 1857, which, see page 51.

Devices and legends on the coins.

\* See pages 42 and 43. Acts of Feb. 21 and Mar. 3, 1853.

Deposits of bullion to be received for



coinage on  
certain con-  
ditions.

received and coined by the proper officers, for the benefit of the depositor: Provided, That it shall be lawful to refuse, at the Mint, any deposit of less value than one hundred dollars, and any bullion so base as to be unsuitable for the operations of the Mint: And provided, also, That when gold and silver are combined, if either of these metals be in such small proportion that it cannot be separated advantageously, no allowance shall be made to the depositor for the value of such metal.

Receipt to be  
given for  
bullion by  
Treasurer.

SECT. 15.—And be it further enacted, That when bullion is brought to the Mint for coinage, it shall be weighed by the Treasurer, in the presence of the depositor, when practicable, and a receipt given, which shall state the description and weight of the bullion: Provided, That when the bullion is in such a state as to require melting before its value can be ascertained, the weight after melting shall be considered as the true weight of the bullion deposited.

Bullion to be  
assayed.

SECT. 16.—And be it further enacted, That from every parcel of bullion deposited for coinage, the Treasurer shall deliver to the Assayer a sufficient portion for the purpose of being assayed; but all such bullion remaining from the operations of the assay, shall be returned to the Treasurer by the Assayer.

Assayer to  
report to  
Treasurer.

SECT. 17.—And be it further enacted, That the Assayer shall report to the Treasurer the quality or standard of the bullion assayed by him; and he shall also communicate to the Treasurer such information as will enable him to estimate the amount of the charges hereinafter provided for, to be made to the depositor, for the expenses of converting the bullion into standard metal fit for coinage.

Charges to  
depositor.

SECT. 18.—And be it further enacted, That the only subject of charge by the Mint to the depositor, shall be the following:—For refining, when the bullion is below

\* See page 44,  
Act of Feb.  
21, 1853.

standard; for toughening, when metals are contained in it which render it unfit for coinage; for copper used

for alloy, when the bullion is above standard ; for silver introduced into the alloy of gold ; and for separating the gold and silver, when these metals exist together in the bullion ; and that the rate of these charges shall be fixed, from time to time, by the Director, with the concurrence of the Secretary of the Treasury, so as not to exceed, in their judgment, the actual expense to the Mint of the materials and labor employed in each of the cases aforementioned ; and that the amount received from these charges shall be accounted for, and appropriated for defraying the contingent expenses of the Mint.

Rate thereof,  
how to be  
fixed.

Amount  
thereof ap-  
propriated to  
contingent  
expenses of  
the Mint.

SEC. 19.—And be it further enacted, That from the report of the Assayer and the weight of the bullion, the Treasurer shall estimate the whole value of each deposit, and also the amount of the charges or deductions, if any ; of all which he shall give a detailed memorandum to the depositor ; and he shall also give at the same time, under his hand, a certificate of the net amount of the deposit, to be paid in coins of the same species of bullion as that deposited.

Memoran-  
dum and cer-  
tificate to be  
given to de-  
positors.

SEC. 20.—And be it further enacted, That parcels of bullion shall be, from time to time, transferred by the Treasurer to the Melter and Refiner ; that a careful record of these transfers, noting the weight and character of the bullion shall be kept ; and that the bullion thus placed in the hands of the Melter and Refiner, shall be subjected to the several processes which may be necessary to form it into ingots of the legal standard, and of a quality suitable for coinage.

Melter and  
Refiner to  
have bullion  
transferred  
to him by  
Treasurer,  
and to pre-  
pare stand-  
ard ingots  
therefrom.

SEC. 21.—And be it further enacted, That the ingots thus prepared shall be assayed by the Assayer, and if they prove to be within the limits allowed for deviation from the standard, they shall be transferred by the Melter and Refiner to the Treasurer, accompanied by the Assayer's certificate of their fineness ; and that a careful record of the transfer shall be kept by the Treasurer.

Ingots to be  
assayed, and  
if reported  
legal, to be  
transferred  
to Treasurer.

Allowed variations from standard in the ingots.

SEC. 22.—And be it further enacted, That no ingots of gold shall be used for coinage, of which the quality differs more than two thousandths from the legal standard; and that no ingots of silver shall be used for coinage, of which the quality differs more than three thousandths from the legal standard.\*

\* See page 41, Act of Mar. 3, 1851.

Accounts with Melter and Refiner.

Sec. 23.—And be it further enacted, That in the Treasurer's account with the Melter and Refiner, the Melter and Refiner shall be debited with the standard weight of all the bullion placed in his hands, that is to say, with the weight of metal of legal standard fineness which it will make; and that he shall be credited by the standard weight of all the ingots delivered by him to the Treasurer; and that once at least in every year, at such time as the Director shall appoint, the Melter and Refiner shall deliver up to the Treasurer all the bullion in his possession, in order that his accounts may be settled up to that time; and, in this settlement, he shall be entitled to a credit for the difference between the whole amount of bullion delivered to him and received from him, since the last settlement as an allowance for necessary waste; Provided, That this allowance shall not exceed two thousandths of the whole amount of gold and silver bullion respectively, that had been delivered to him by the Treasurer.

Settlements thereof.

Allowance for wastage.

Chief Coiner to have ingots delivered to him by Treasurer, and to coin the same.

SEC. 24.—And be it further enacted, That the Treasurer shall, from time to time, deliver over to the Chief Coiner, ingots for the purpose of coinage; that he shall keep a careful record of these transfers, noting the weight and description of the ingots; and that the ingots thus placed in the hands of the Chief Coiner shall be passed through the several processes necessary to make from them coins in all respects conformable to law.

Allowed variations from the standard weights of the coins.

SEC. 25.—And be it further enacted, That in adjusting the weight of the coins, the following deviations from the standard weight shall not be exceeded in any of the single pieces:—In the dollar and half dollar

one grain and a half; in the quarter dollar, one grain; in the dime and half dime, half a grain; in the gold coins, one quarter of a grain; in the copper coins, one grain in the pennyweight; and that in weighing a large number of pieces together, when delivered from the Chief Coiner to the Treasurer, and from the Treasurer to the depositors, the deviations from the standard weight shall not exceed the following limits:\* Four pennyweights in one thousand dollars; three pennyweights in one thousand half dollars; two pennyweights in one thousand quarter dollars; one pennyweight in one thousand dimes; one pennyweight in one thousand half dimes; two pennyweights in one thousand eagles; one and a half pennyweight in one thousand half eagles; one pennyweight in one thousand quarter eagles.

\* See pages 40 and 41. Acts of Mar. 3, '49, Mar. 3, 1861.

SEC. 26.—And be it further enacted, That the Chief Coiner shall, from time to time, as the coins are prepared, deliver them over to the Treasurer, who shall keep a careful record of their kind, number and weight; and that in receiving the coins it shall be the duty of the Treasurer to see whether the coins of that delivery are within the legal limits of the standard weight; and if his trials for this purpose shall not prove satisfactory, he shall cause all the coins of this delivery to be weighed separately, and such as are not of legal weight shall be delivered to the Melter and Refiner, as standard bullion, to be again formed into ingots and recoined.

Chief Coiner shall deliver the coins to the Treasurer, who shall test the legal weight thereof.

SEC. 27.—And be it further enacted, That at every delivery of coins made by the Chief Coiner to the Treasurer, it shall be the duty of the Treasurer, in the presence of the Assayer, to take, indiscriminately, a certain number of pieces of each variety for the annual trial of coins, (the number being prescribed by the Director,) which shall be carefully labelled and deposited in a chest appropriated for the purpose, kept under the joint care of the Treasurer and Assayer, and so secured that neither can have access to its contents without the presence of the other.

Coins to be reserved for the annual assay.

Clippings,  
&c., how dis-  
posed of.

SEC. 28.—And be it further enacted, That the Chief Coiner shall, from time to time, deliver to the Treasurer the clippings and other portions of bullion remaining after the process of coining, and that the Treasurer shall keep a careful record of their amount.

Account  
with Chief  
Coiner.

SEC. 29.—And be it further enacted, That in the Treasurer's account with the Chief Coiner, the Chief Coiner shall be debited with the amount in weight of standard metal of all the bullion placed in his hands, and credited with the amount, also by weight, of all the coins, clippings, and other bullion delivered by him to the Treasurer; and that once at least in every year, at

Settlement  
thereof.

such time as the Director shall appoint, the Chief Coiner shall deliver to the Treasurer all the coins and bullion in his possession, so that his accounts may be settled up to that time; and, in this settlement, he shall be entitled to a credit for the difference between the whole amount of ingots delivered to him, and of the coins and bullion received from him, since the last settlement, as an allowance for necessary waste: Provided, That this allowance shall not exceed two thousandths of the whole amount of the silver, or one and one-half thousandths of the whole amount of the gold, that had been delivered to him by the Treasurer.

Allowance  
for wastage.

Depositors,  
how and  
when to be  
paid.

SEC. 30.—And be it further enacted, That when the coins which are the equivalent to any deposit of bullion are ready for delivery, they shall be paid over to the depositor, or his order, by the Treasurer, on a warrant from the Director; and the payments shall be made, if demanded, in the order in which the bullion shall have been brought to the Mint, giving priority according to priority of deposit only; and that in the denominations of coin delivered, the Treasurer shall comply with the wishes of the depositor, unless when impracticable or inconvenient to do so, in which case the denominations of coin shall be designated by the Director.

SEC. 31.—And be it further enacted, That for the purpose of enabling the Mint to make the returns to depositors with as little delay as possible, it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to keep in the said Mint, when the state of the Treasury will admit thereof, a deposit of such amount of public money, or of bullion procured for the purpose, as he shall judge convenient and necessary, not exceeding one million of dollars, out of which those who bring bullion to the Mint may be paid the value thereof, as soon as practicable after this value has been ascertained; that the bullion so deposited shall become the property of the United States; that no discount or interest shall be charged on money so advanced; and that the Secretary of the Treasury may at any time withdraw the said deposit, or any part thereof, or may, at his discretion, allow the coins formed at the Mint to be given for their equivalent in other money.\*

Public Money to be deposited in Mint to secure prompt payment to depositors.

\* See page 45, Act of May 23, 1850. Annual assay of coins.

SEC. 32.—And be it further enacted, That to secure a due conformity in the gold and silver coins to their respective standards and weights, an annual trial shall be made of the pieces reserved for this purpose at the Mint and its Branches, before the judge of the district court of the United States for the eastern district of Pennsylvania, the attorney of the United States for the eastern district of Pennsylvania, and the collector of the port of Philadelphia, and such other persons as the President shall from time to time designate for that purpose, who shall meet as commissioners for the performance of this duty, on the second Monday in February annually, and may continue their meetings by adjournment, if necessary; and if a majority of the commissioners shall fail to attend at any time appointed for their meeting, then the Director of the Mint shall call a meeting of the commissioners at such other time as he may deem convenient; and that before these commissioners or a majority of them, and in the presence of the officers of the Mint, such examination shall be made of the

reserved pieces as shall be judged sufficient; and if it shall appear that these pieces do not differ from the standard fineness and weight by a greater quantity than is allowed by law, the trial shall be considered and reported as satisfactory; but if any greater deviation from the legal standard or weight shall appear, this fact shall be certified to the President of the United States, and if, on a view of the circumstances of the case, he shall so decide, the officer or officers implicated in the error shall be thenceforward disqualified from holding their respective offices.

Treasurer  
shall purchase copper  
bullion in  
planchets.

SECT. 33.—And be it further enacted, That copper bullion shall be purchased for the Mint, from time to time, by the Treasurer, under instructions from the Director: that the cost shall be paid from the fund hereinafter provided for; and that the copper bullion shall be of good quality, and in the form of planchets, fit for passing at once into the hands of the Chief Coiner.\*

\* See page 51,  
Act of Feb.  
21, 1867.  
Which shall  
be coined.

SECT. 34.—And be it further enacted, That the copper planchets shall be delivered, from time to time, by the Treasurer to the Chief Coiner, to be by him coined; and all such copper shall be returned to the Treasurer by the Chief Coiner, weight for weight, without allowance for waste.

And sold to  
applicants  
therefor.

SECT. 35.—And be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the Treasurer of the Mint to deliver the copper coins in exchange for their legal equivalent in other money, to any persons who shall apply for them: Provided, That the sum asked for, be not less than a certain amount to be determined by the Director, and that it be not so great as in his judgment, to interfere with the capacity of the Mint to supply other applicants.

Copper coins  
may be sent  
to distant  
places in the  
U. States, at  
cost of Mint.

SECT. 36.—And be it further enacted, That the copper coins may, at the discretion of the Director, be delivered in any of the principal cities and towns of the United States, at the cost of the Mint for transportation.

SECT. 37.—And be it further enacted, That the money received by the Treasurer in exchange for copper coins shall form a fund in his hands, which shall be used to purchase copper planchets, and to pay the expenses of transportation of copper coins; and that if there be a surplus, the same shall be appropriated to defray the contingent expenses of the Mint.\*

Of the fund reserved from copper coins.

\*The sections relating to copper coinage are modified by the Act of Feb. 21, 1867, which. see page 61.

SECT. 38.—And be it further enacted, That all acts or parts of acts heretofore passed, relating to the Mint and coins of the United States, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this act, be, and the same are hereby repealed.

Repealing clause.

APPROVED, Jan'y 18th, 1837.



# OTHER LEGAL PROVISIONS

RELATIVE TO THE

## MINT AND COINAGE.

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### I.

#### PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES.

Constitutional provisions as to coinage and legal tender.

The Congress shall have power—To coin money; regulate the value thereof, and of foreign coins; and fix the standard of weights and measures. (Art. 1, Sec. 8.)

No state shall coin money, or make anything but gold and silver a legal tender in payment of debts. (Art. 1, Sec. 10.)

### II.

#### ESTABLISHMENT AND LOCATION OF THE MINT.

Establishment and location of the Mint.

Be it enacted, &c.,—That a Mint, for the purpose of a national coinage, be, and the same is established, to be situate and carried on at the seat of government of the United States, for the time being. (Act of April 2d, 1792: the seat of government being then at Philadelphia.)

Be it enacted, &c.,—That until the 4th day of March, 1801, the Mint shall remain in the City of Philadelphia, and be carried on as heretofore, under the laws now in

force, any law to the contrary, notwithstanding. (Act of May 14th, 1800.)

Be it enacted, &c.,—That the Mint shall remain in Philadelphia, until the 4th day of March, in the year 1803. (Act of March 3d, 1801.)

This act was revived and continued in force and operation, for successive periods of five years, until the 4th of March, 1828, when the location of the Mint at Philadelphia was made permanent, by the following enactment:

Be it enacted, &c.,—That the act entitled "An Act concerning the mint," approved March the third, one thousand eight hundred and one, be, and the same hereby is revived and continued in force and operation until otherwise provided by law. (Act of May 19th, 1828, Sec. 1.)

### III.

#### DENOMINATIONS, VALUES, AND DESCRIPTIONS OF THE COINS OF THE UNITED STATES.

Be it enacted, &c.,—That there shall be, from time to time, struck and coined at the said Mint, coins of gold, silver, and copper of the following denominations, values, and descriptions, viz.: Eagles: each to be of the value of ten dollars, or units. \* \* \* \* Half eagles: each to be of the value of five dollars. \* \* \* \* Quarter eagles: each to be of the value of two dollars and a half dollar. \* \* \* \* Dollars, or units: each to be of the value of a Spanish milled dollar, as the same is now current. \* \* \* Half dollars: each to be of the value of the dollar, or unit. \* \* \* \* Quarter dollars: each to be of one-fourth the value of the dollar, or unit. \* \* \* \* Dimes: each to be of the value of one-tenth of a dollar, or unit. \* \* \* \* Half dimes: each to be of the value of one-twenty.

Cents. tieth of a dollar. \* \* \* \* Cents: each to be of the value of the one-hundredth part of a dollar. \* \* \* \*

Half cents. Half cents: each to be of the value of half a cent.

\* See pages 40, 41 and 42, Acts of Mar. 3, '49, Mar. 3, '51, Feb. 21, 1853. \* \* \* \* (Act of April 2d, 1792, Sect. 9.\* We have substituted asterisks for those parts of this section which are now obsolete, relating to the standard and weight of the coins. Sufficient particulars on this subject may be found under the head relating to the "Old standards and weights of coins, p. 36.)

#### IV.

### MONEY OF ACCOUNT OF THE UNITED STATES.

Money of account of the United States.

Be it enacted, &c.,—That the money of account of the United States shall be expressed in dollars or units, dimes or tenths, cents or hundredths, and mills or thousandths; a dime being the tenth part of a dollar, a cent the hundredth part of a dollar, a mill the thousandth part of a dollar; and that all accounts in the public offices, and all proceedings in the courts of the United States, shall be kept and had in conformity to this regulation. (Act of April 2d, 1792, Sec. 20.)

#### V.

### COPPER COINS CURRENT.

Copper coins current.

Be it enacted, &c.,—That after the expiration of six calendar months from the time when there shall have been paid into the treasury, by the said Director, in cents and half cents, a sum not less than fifty thousand dollars,—which time shall forthwith be announced by the Treasurer in at least two gazettes or newspapers, published at the seat of the government of the United States, for the time being,—no copper coins or pieces

whatsoever, except the said cents and half cents, shall pass current as money, or shall be paid or offered to be paid, or received in payment for any debt, demand, claim, matter or thing whatsoever, and all copper coins or pieces, except the said cents and half cents, which shall be paid or offered to be paid, or received in payment, contrary to the prohibition aforesaid, shall be forfeited; and every person by whom any of them shall have been so paid or offered to be paid, or received in payment, shall also forfeit the sum of ten dollars; and said forfeiture and penalty shall and may be recovered with costs of suit, for the benefit of any person by whom information of the incurring thereof shall have been given. (Act of May 8th, 1792, Sec. 2. The announcement required having been duly made by the Treasurer of the United States, this enactment is in full force.)

## VI.

## FOREIGN COINS CURRENT.

And be it further enacted, &c.,—That all foreign gold and silver coins, (except Spanish milled dollars and parts of such dollars,) which shall be received in payment for moneys due to the United States, after the said time when the coinage of gold and silver coins shall begin at the Mint of the United States, shall, previously to their being issued in circulation, be coined anew, in conformity to the Act, entitled, “An act establishing a Mint, and regulating the coins of the United States.” (Act of Feb. 9, 1793, § 3.)

Foreign coins paid to the United States to be recoined before being issued into circulation.

SEC. 1.—Be it enacted, &c.,—That from and after the thirty-first day of July next, the following gold coins shall pass current as money within the United States, and be receivable in all payments, by weight, for the

Rate at which gold coins of Portugal, Brazil, Spain, Mexico, and Colombia, shall pass current.

payment of all debts and demands, at the rates following; that is to say,—the gold coins of [Great Britain,] Portugal, and Brazil, of not less than twenty-two carats fine, at the rate of ninety-four cents and eight-tenths of a cent per pennyweight; [the gold coins of France, nine-tenths fine, at the rate of ninety-three cents and one-tenth of a cent pennyweight]; and the gold coins of Spain, Mexico, and Colombia, of the fineness of twenty carats, three grains and seven-sixteenths of a grain, at the rate of eighty-nine cents and nine-tenths of a cent per pennyweight.\*

\* Repealed  
by 3d Sect.  
Act of Feb.  
21, 1857, page  
51.

Such coins to  
be assayed  
annually.

Repealed and  
supplied by  
the 3d section  
of Act of Feb.  
21, 1857, p. 51.

SEC. 2.—And be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to cause assays of the aforesaid gold coins, made current by this act, to be had at the mint of the United States, at least once in every year, and to make report of the result thereof to Congress. (Act of June 28th, 1834.)

Rate at  
which silver  
coins of Chili,  
Central  
America and  
Brazil, shall  
pass current.

SEC. 1.—Be it enacted, &c.,—That from and after the passage of this act, the following silver coins shall be of the legal value, and shall pass current as money within the United States, by tale, for the payment of all debts and demands, at the rate of one hundred cents the dollar; that is to say,—the dollars of Mexico, Peru, Chili, and Central America, of not less weight than four hundred and fifteen grains each; and those re-stamped in Brazil of the like weight; and of not less fineness than ten ounces fifteen pennyweights pure silver in the Troy pound of twelve ounces of standard silver. And the five-franc pieces of France, when of not less fineness than ten ounces and sixteen pennyweights, in twelve ounces Troy weight of standard silver, and weighing not less than three hundred and eighty-four grains each, at the rate of ninety-three cents each.\*

\* Repealed  
by the 3rd  
Sect., Act of  
Feb. 21, 1857,  
page 51.

SEC. 2.—And be it further enacted, That it shall be

the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to cause assays of the aforesaid silver coins made current by this act, to be had at the Mint of the United States, at least once in every year, and to make report of the result thereof to Congress. (Act of June 25th, 1834.)

Such coins to be assayed annually.

Supplied by Act of Feb. 21, 1853, p. 51

SEC. 1.—Be it enacted, &c.,—That from and after the passage of this act, the following foreign gold coins shall pass current as money within the United States, and be receivable, by weight, for the payments of all debts and demands, at the rates following, that is to say: the gold coins of Great Britain, of not less than nine hundred and fifteen and a half thousandths in fineness, at ninety-four cents and six-tenths of a cent per pennyweight; and the gold coins of France, of not less than eight hundred and ninety-nine thousandths in fineness, at ninety-two cents and nine-tenths of a cent per pennyweight.

Rate at which gold coins of Great Britain and France shall pass current.

Supplied by Act of Feb. 21, 1853, p. 51

SEC. 2.—And be it further enacted, That from and after the passage of this act, the following foreign silver coins shall pass current as money within the United States, and be receivable, by tale, for the payment of all debts and demands, at the rates following, that is to say: the Spanish pillar dollars, and the dollars of Mexico, Peru and Bolivia, of not less than eight hundred and ninety-seven thousandths in fineness, and four hundred and fifteen grains in weight, at one hundred cents each; and the five-franc pieces of France,\* of not less than nine hundred thousandths in fineness, and three hundred and eighty-four grains in weight, at ninety-three cents each.\*

Rate at which silver coins of Spain, Mexico, Peru, Bolivia, and France shall pass current.

\* See page 24, Act of May 22, '46, as to franc.

\* Repealed by 3rd Sect. Act of Feb. 21, 1857, page 51.

SEC. 3.—And be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to cause assays of the coins, made current by this act, to be had at the Mint of the United States, at least once in every year, and to make report of the result thereof to Congress. (Act of March 3, 1843, c. 69.)

Such coins to be assayed annually.

Repealed and supplied by Act of Feb. 21, 1853, p. 51

Rate of computation at the custom houses of the thaler of Prussia, the mil-reis of Portugal, the rix-dollar of Bremen, the thaler of Bremen, the mil-reis of Madeira, the mil-reis of the Azores, the marc-banco of Hamburg, the rouble of Russia, and the rupee of British India.

Be it enacted, &c., That in all computations of the value of foreign moneys of account at the custom houses of the United States, the thaler of Prussia shall be deemed and taken to be of the value of sixty-eight and one half cents; the mil-reis of Portugal shall be deemed and taken to be of the value of one hundred and twelve cents; the rix dollar of Bremen shall be deemed and taken to be of the value of seventy eight and three-quarter cents; the thaler of Bremen, of seventy-two grotes, shall be deemed and taken to be of the value of seventy-one cents; that the mil-reis of Madeira shall be deemed and taken to be of the value of one hundred cents; the mil-reis of the Azores shall be deemed and taken to be of the value of eighty-three and one-third cents; the marcbanco of Hamburg shall be deemed and taken to be of the value of thirty-five cents; the rouble of Russia shall be deemed and taken to be of the value of seventy-five cents; the rupee of British India shall be deemed and taken to be of the value of fifty four and one-half cents; and all former laws inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed. (Act of March 3, 1843, c. 92.)

Rate of computation at the custom houses of the specie dollar of Sweden, Norway, and Denmark; thaler of Prussia and Northern States of Germany; florin of Austria and Augsburg; lira of Lombardo-Venetian kingdom and Tuscany; franc of France and Belgium; ducat of Naples; ounce of Sicily; pound of Nova Scotia, New Bruns-

Be it enacted, &c., That in all computations at the custom houses, the foreign coins and moneys of account herein specified shall be estimated as follows, to wit:— The specie dollar of Sweden and Norway at one hundred and six cents. The specie dollar of Denmark at one hundred and five cents. The thaler of Prussia and of the Northern States of Germany at sixty-nine cents. The florin of the Southern States of Germany at forty cents. The florin of the Austrian Empire and of the city of Augsburg, at forty-eight and one-half cents. The lira of the Lombardo-Venetian Kingdom, and the lira of Tuscany at sixteen cents. The franc of France and of Belgium, and the lira of Sardinia at eighteen cents six mills. The ducat of Naples at eighty cents. The ounce of Sicily at two dollars and forty

cents. The pound of the British provinces of Nova <sup>wick, New-</sup>foundland, and Canada, <sup>and Canada.</sup> at four dollars. And all laws inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed. (Act of May 22d, 1846.)

## VII.

### OLD STANDARDS AND WEIGHTS OF COINS.

#### SILVER COINS.

Be it enacted, &c., That the standard for all silver <sup>Old standards and weights of silver coins.</sup> coins of the United States shall be one thousand four hundred and eighty-five parts fine, to one hundred and seventy-nine parts alloy; and accordingly, that one thousand four hundred and eighty-five parts, in one thousand six hundred and sixty-four parts of the entire weight of each of said coins, shall consist of pure silver, and the remaining one hundred and seventy-nine parts of alloy, which alloy shall be wholly of copper. (Act of April 2d, 1792, Sect. 13.)—[This standard corresponds to 892.4 thousandths, nearly.]

By Sect. 9 of the same act, the weight of the dollar is fixed at four hundred and sixteen grains of the above standard, and the weight of the parts of the dollar in proportion.

This standard and weight were retained until the end of the year 1836, and the coins of this period are still legal tenders of payment.

#### GOLD COINS.

Be it enacted, &c., That the standard for all gold <sup>Old standard and weights of gold coins.</sup> coins of the United States shall be eleven parts fine, to one part alloy; and accordingly, that eleven parts in every twelve of the entire weight of each of the said coins shall consist of pure gold, and the remaining one twelfth part of alloy; and the said alloy shall be com-



posed of silver and copper, not exceeding one half silver, as shall be found convenient. (Act of April 2d, 1792, part of Sec. 12.)

This standard corresponds to twenty-two carats, or to  $916\frac{2}{3}$  thousandths.

By Sect. 9 of the same act, the weight of the eagle was fixed at two hundred and seventy grains, and the weight of the half and quarter eagle in proportion.

This standard and weight were retained until the end of July, 1834, when the following enactments came into force.

Be it enacted, &c., That the gold coins of the United States shall contain the following quantities of metal; that is to say,—each eagle shall contain two hundred and thirty-two grains of pure gold, and two hundred and fifty-eight grains of standard gold; each half eagle, one hundred and sixteen grains of pure gold, and one hundred and twenty-nine grains of standard gold; each quarter eagle shall contain fifty eight grains of pure gold, and sixty-four and a half grains of standard gold. Every such eagle shall be of the value of ten dollars; every such half eagle shall be of the value of five dollars; and every such quarter eagle shall be of the value of two dollars and fifty cents. And the said gold coins shall be received in all payments, when of full weight, according to their said respective values; and, when of less than full weight, at less values, proportioned to their respective actual weights. (Act of June 28th, 1834, Sect. 1.)

Be it further enacted, That all gold coins of the United States, minted anterior to the thirty-first day of June next, shall be receivable in all payments at the rate of ninety-four and eight-tenths of a cent per penny-weight. (Sect. 3 of the same act.)

The above standard, which corresponds to 21 carats  $21\frac{1}{3}$  grains, 899.225 thousandths, continued until the act of January, 1837, when it was changed to 900 thousandths. The weights of the gold coins were not, how-

ever, altered; and all gold coins made after July 31st, 1834, are legal tenders, according to their nominal values.

## VIII.

### AGAINST COUNTERFEITING, IMPAIRING OR LIGHTENING THE COINS.

Be it enacted, &c., That if any person or persons shall falsely make, forge, or counterfeit, or cause or procure to be falsely made, forged or counterfeited, or willingly aid or assist in falsely making, forging, or counterfeiting, any coin in resemblance or similitude of the gold or silver coin which has been, or hereafter may be coined at the Mint of the United States; or in the resemblance or similitude of any foreign gold or silver coin which by law now is, or hereafter may be made current in the United States; or shall pass, utter, publish, or sell, or attempt to pass, utter, publish, or sell, or bring into the United States from any foreign place, with intent to pass, utter, publish, or sell, as true, any such false, forged, or counterfeited coin, knowing the same to be false, forged or counterfeited, with intent to defraud any body, politic or corporate, or any other person or persons whatsoever; every person, so offending, shall be deemed guilty of felony, and shall on conviction thereof, be punished by fine, not exceeding five thousand dollars, and by imprisonment and confinement at hard labor, not exceeding ten years, according to the aggravation of the offence.

Making or uttering counterfeit gold or silver coins.

Penalty therefor.

And be it further enacted, That if any person or persons shall falsely make, forge or counterfeit, or cause or procure to be falsely made, forged, or counterfeited, or willingly aid or assist in falsely making, forging or counterfeiting any coin in the resemblance or similitude of any copper coin which has been, or hereafter may be, coined at the Mint of the United States; or shall

Making or uttering counterfeit copper coins.

pass, utter, publish, or sell; or bring into the United States from any foreign place, with intent to pass, utter, publish, or sell, as true, any such false, forged, or counterfeited coin, with intent to defraud any body politic or corporate, or any person or persons whatsoever; every person so offending shall be deemed guilty of felony, and shall, on conviction thereof, be punished by fine, not exceeding one thousand dollars, and by imprisonment, and confinement to hard labor, not exceeding three years. (Act of March 3d, 1825, Sect. 20, 21.)

Penalty  
therefor.

Impairing,  
lightening,  
&c. the coins.

Penalty  
therefor.

And be it further enacted, That if any person shall fraudulently and for gain's sake, by any art, way, or means, whatsoever, impair, diminish, falsify, scale, or lighten, the gold or silver coins, which have been, or which shall hereafter be coined at the Mint of the United States, or any foreign gold or silver coins, which are by law made current, or are in actual use and circulation, as money, within the United States; every person so offending shall be deemed guilty of a high misdemeanor, and shall be imprisoned not exceeding two years, and fined not exceeding two thousand dollars. (Act of April 21st, 1806, Sect. 3.)

## IX.

### AGAINST OFFENCES AT THE MINT.

Debasing the  
coins by per-  
sons employ-  
ed in the  
Mint, or em-  
bezzling the  
metals or  
coins.

Be it enacted, &c., That if any of the gold or silver coins, which shall be struck or coined at the Mint of the United States, shall be debased, or made worse as to the proportion of fine gold or fine silver therein contained; or shall be of less weight or value than the same ought to be, pursuant to the several acts relative thereto, through the default or connivance of any of the officers or persons who shall be employed at the said Mint, for the purpose of profit or gain, or otherwise, with a fraudulent intent; and if any of the said officers

or persons shall embezzle any of the metals which shall at any time, be committed to their charge for the purpose of being coined, or any of the coins which shall be struck, or coined at the said Mint, every such officer or person who shall commit any, or either of the said offences, shall be deemed guilty of felony, and shall be sentenced to imprisonment and hard labor, for a term not less than one year, nor more than ten years, and shall be fined in a sum not exceeding ten thousand dollars. <sup>Penalty therefor</sup>  
(Act of March 3d, 1825, Sect. 24.)

## X.

## STANDARD WEIGHTS OF THE MINT.

Be it enacted, &c., That, for the purpose of securing a due conformity in weight of the coins of the United States, to the provisions of the ninth section of the act, passed the second of April, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-two, entitled "An Act establishing a Mint, and regulating the coins of the United States," the brass Troy pound weight procured by the minister of the United States, at London, in the year one thousand eight hundred and twenty-seven, for the use of the Mint, and now in the custody of the Director thereof, shall be the standard Troy pound of the Mint of the United States, conformably to which the coinage thereof shall be regulated. <sup>Standard Troy pound of the Mint declared.</sup>

And be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the Director of the Mint to procure, and safely to keep, a series of standard weights corresponding to the aforesaid Troy pound, consisting of a one pound weight and the requisite sub-divisions and multiples thereof, from the hundredth part of a grain to twenty-five pounds; and that the Troy weights ordinarily employed in the transactions of the Mint, shall be regulated according to the above standards, at least once in every <sup>Corresponding weights to be procured for the Mint, and tested at the annual assay.</sup>

year, under his inspection, and their accuracy tested annually in the presence of the Assay Commissioners, on the day of the annual assay. (Act of May 19th, 1828, Sect. 2, 3.)

## XI.

### ASSAY OF BULLION NOT INTENDED FOR COINAGE.

Bullion not  
to be coined  
may be assayed  
at the  
Mint.

Be it enacted, &c., That it shall be lawful for the Director of the Mint to receive, and cause to be assayed, bullion not intended for coinage, and to cause certificates to be given of the fineness thereof, by such officer as he shall designate for that purpose, at such rates of charge, to be paid by the owner of said bullion, and under such regulations as the said Director may from time to time establish. (Act of May 19th, 1828, Sec. 7.)

## XII.

### UNEXPENDED APPROPRIATIONS.

Unexpended  
appropriations  
how  
disposed of.

Be it enacted, &c., That in regard to any sum which shall have remained unexpended upon any appropriation, (other than for the payment of interest on funded debt; for the payment of interest upon, and reimbursement, according to contract, of any loan or loans made on account of the United States; for the purpose of the sinking fund; or for a purpose, in respect to which a longer duration is specially assigned by law;) for more than two years after the expiration of the calendar year in which the act of appropriation shall have been passed, such appropriation shall be deemed to have ceased and been determined: and the sum so unexpended shall be carried to an account, on the books of the Treasury, to be denominated "The Surplus Fund," &c. (Act of March 3d, 1795, Sec. 16.)

## XIII.

ACT TO ESTABLISH BRANCHES OF THE MINT  
OF THE UNITED STATES.

Be it enacted, &c., That branches of the Mint of <sup>Branch</sup> the United States shall be established as follows: one <sup>Mints estab-</sup> branch at the city of New Orleans for the coinage of <sup>lished at New</sup> gold and silver; one branch at the town of Charlotte <sup>Orleans,</sup> in Mecklenburg county in the State of North Carolina, <sup>Charlotte</sup> for the coinage of gold only: and one Branch at or near <sup>and Dah-</sup> Dahlonega in Lumpkin county, in the State of Georgia, <sup>lonega.</sup> also for the coinage of gold only. And for the purpose of purchasing sites, erecting suitable buildings, and completing the necessary combinations of machinery for the several branches aforesaid, the following sums to be paid out of any money in the Treasury, not otherwise appropriated, shall be and are hereby appropriated: for the branch at New Orleans, the sum of two hundred thousand dollars; for the branch at Charlotte, fifty thousand dollars; and for the branch at Dahlonega, fifty thousand dollars.

SEC. 2.—And be it further enacted, That so soon <sup>Officers</sup> as the necessary buildings are erected, for the well <sup>thereof.</sup> conducting the business of each of the said branches, the following officers shall be appointed upon the nomination of the President, and with the advice and consent of the Senate:—one Superintendent, one Treasurer, one Assayer, one Chief Coiner, one Melter, and one Refiner.\* And the Superintendent of each Mint shall engage and employ as many clerks, and as many subordinate workmen and servants as shall be provided for by law; and the salaries of the said officers and clerks shall be as follows:—For the Branch Mint at New Orleans; to the superintendent, the sum of two thousand five hundred dollars; to the Treasurer the sum of two thousand dollars; to the Chief Coiner, the

\* See page 33,  
Act of Feb.  
13, 1837.

sum of two thousand dollars; to the Assayer, Melter and Refiner, the sum of two thousand dollars each; to two clerks the sum of twelve hundred dollars each; to the subordinate workmen and servants, not exceeding twenty in number, such wages and allowances as are customary and reasonable, according to their respective stations and occupations. For the Branches at Charlotte and Dahlonega; to the Superintendents, each the sum of two thousand dollars, who shall respectively discharge the duty of Treasurers; to the Chief Coiners each the sum of one thousand five hundred dollars; to the Assayers, Melters and Refiners, each the sum of one thousand five hundred dollars; to the clerks, not exceeding one at each Branch, the sum of one thousand dollars; and to the subordinate workmen and servants, not exceeding the number of five at each of the said Branches, such wages and allowances shall be paid as are customary and reasonable, according to their respective stations and occupations. And for the purpose of paying the said salaries, wages, allowances, and the incidental expenses of the said Branches of the Mint for the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty-five, the following sums, to be paid out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, be, and the same hereby are appropriated; for the Branch at New Orleans, the sum of thirty-five thousand dollars; for the Branches at Charlotte and Dahlonega, the sum of fifteen thousand dollars each.

Oath of  
officers.

Bond and  
security  
required.

SEC. 3.—And be it further enacted, That the officers and clerks to be appointed under this act, before entering upon the duties thereof, shall take an oath or affirmation, before some judge of the United States, faithfully and diligently to perform the duties thereof; and shall each become bound to the United States of America, with one or more sureties to the satisfaction of the Director of the Mint, and the Secretary of the Treasury, with conditions for the faithful and diligent performance

of the duties of their offices. (This section is amended by act of April 2, 1844, See p. 35.)

SEC. 4.—And be it further enacted, That the general direction of the business of the said Branches of the Mint of the United States shall be under the control and regulation of the Director of the Mint at Philadelphia, subject to the approbation of the Secretary of the Treasury; and for that purpose it shall be the duty of the said Director to prescribe such regulations, and require such returns, periodically and occasionally, as shall appear to him to be necessary, for the purpose of carrying into effect the intention of this act in establishing the said Branches: also, for the purpose of discriminating the coins which shall be stamped at each Branch, and at the Mint itself: also, for the purpose of preserving uniformity of weight, form, and fineness, in the coins stamped at each place. And for that purpose, to require the transmission and delivery to him at the Mint, from time to time, of such parcels of the coinage of each branch as he shall think proper, to be subjected to such assays and tests as he shall direct.

Director of the Mint at Philadelphia to have general control of the Branch Mints; his duties for that purpose.

SEC. 5.—And be it further enacted, That all the laws, and parts of laws, made for the regulation of the Mint of the United States, and for the government of the officers and persons employed therein, and for the punishment of all offences connected with the Mint or coinage of the United States, shall be, and the same are hereby declared to be, in full force, in relation to each of the Branches of the Mint, by this act established, so far as the same shall be applicable thereto. (Act of March 3d, 1835.)

Laws for the regulation of the Mint of the United States, extended to the Branches.

#### XIV.

#### AMENDMENTS TO THE FOREGOING ACT ESTABLISHING BRANCH MINTS.

Be it enacted, &c., That the officers of the Branch



Amendment  
declaring the  
officers of  
the Branch  
Mints; their  
duties and  
salaries.

\* See follow-  
ing Act of  
Feb. 27, '43.

Mint at New Orleans shall be one Superintendent, one Treasurer, one Assayer, one Melter and Refiner and one Coiner; and that the officers of the Branch Mints at Charlotte and Dahlonega, severally, shall be one Superintendent, who shall also perform the duties of Treasurer; one assayer, who shall also perform the duties of Melter and Refiner;\* and one Coiner; and the annual salaries of the said officers shall be as follows: for the Branch at New Orleans, to the Superintendent, two thousand five hundred dollars; to the Treasurer, the Assayer, the Melter and Refiner, and the Coiner, each two thousand dollars; for the Branches at Charlotte and at Dahlonega, to the Superintendent, two thousand dollars; and to the Assayer and the Coiner, each fifteen hundred dollars.

SECT. 2.—And be it further enacted, That so much of the act, entitled, “An Act to establish Branches of the Mint of the United States,” approved the third day of March, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-five, as is inconsistent with the provisions of this act, be and the same is hereby repealed. (Act of Feb. 13th, 1837.)

Duties of  
Melter and  
Refiner of  
the Branch  
Mints at  
Dahlonega  
and Charlotte  
imposed upon  
the Coiners,

Be it enacted, &c., That an act passed the thirteenth day of February, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-seven, to amend an act, entitled “An Act to establish Branches of the Mint of the United States,” passed the third day of March, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-five, be, and it is hereby altered and amended, so as to transfer the duties of Melter and Refiner from the Assayer to the Coiner, at the Branches of Dahlonega, in Georgia, and of Charlotte, in North Carolina, respectively, and that all laws and parts of laws conflicting with this act, be, and they are hereby repealed. (Act of Feb. 27th, 1843.)

Oath re-  
quired of  
officers and  
clerks of

Be it enacted, &c., That the oath or affirmation required by the third section of an act passed March

third, eighteen hundred and thirty-five, entitled, "An Act to establish Branches of the Mint of the United States," may be taken before any judge of the superior court, or of any court of record, in the State where the Branch, of which the person taking said oath is an officer or clerk, is situated. (Act of April 2d, 1844.)

Branch  
Mints; how  
to be taken.

### ACT SEPTEMBER 30TH, 1850.

The Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby authorized and directed to contract, upon the most reasonable terms, with the proprietors of some well established assaying works now in successful operation in California, upon satisfactory security, to be judged by the Secretary of the Treasury, who shall, under the supervision of the United States assayer to be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, perform such duties in assaying and fixing the value of gold in grain and lumps, and forming the same into bars, as shall be prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury, and that the said United States assayer shall cause the stamp of the United States, indicating the degree of fineness and value, to be affixed to each bar or ingot of gold that may be issued from the establishment. Provided, That the United States shall not be held responsible for the loss of any gold deposited with said proprietors for assay.\*

Secretary of  
Treasury  
authorized to  
contract with  
assaying  
works in Cal-  
ifornia, to  
assay and fix  
the value of  
gold, under  
supervision  
of the State  
Assayer.

Proviso.

\*Repealed by  
the 9th sec.  
of Act of  
July 3, 1852,  
page 39.

### XV.

#### APPOINTMENT OF CLERKS TO MINT TREASURERS.

Whereas, by existing laws, the Treasurers of the United States Mint are required to give bond in heavy penalties for the faithful performance of their duties and of those under them; and whereas, it is but just the

Treasurers of  
the Mints to  
have ap-  
pointment of  
their own  
Clerks.

selection of their clerks should be under their control, therefore

*Resolved*, &c. &c., That so much of the second section of the act approved March 3d, 1835, "An Act to establish Branches of the Mint of the United States," as vests the appointments of the clerks of the Treasury in the Superintendent of each Mint, be, and the same is hereby repealed; and that the several Treasurers of the United States Mint be, and they are hereby authorized to appoint their own clerks, subject, however, to the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury. (Joint Resolution, March 3d, 1851.)

## XVI.

### ACT ESTABLISHING A BRANCH MINT IN CALIFORNIA.

Branch Mint  
establish'd in  
California.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That a Branch of the Mint of the United States be established in California, to be located by the Secretary of the Treasury, for the coinage of gold and silver.

Building to  
be procured.

SECT. 2.—And be it further enacted, That suitable buildings shall be procured or erected, for carrying on the business of said Branch Mint, and the following

Officers to be  
appointed.

officers shall be appointed so soon as the public interests may require their services, upon the nomination of the President, and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to wit: one Superintendent, one Treasurer, one Assayer, one Melter and Refiner, and one Coiner. And the said Superintendent shall engage and employ as many clerks and as many subordinate workmen and servants as shall be provided for by law; and until the 30th of June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five, the salaries of said officers and clerks shall be as follows: to the Superintendent, and to the Treasurer, the

Workmen to  
be engaged.

sum of four thousand five hundred dollars each; to the Assayer, to the Melter and Refiner, and to the Coiner, the sum of three thousand dollars each; to the Clerks the sum of two thousand dollars each; to the subordinate workmen such wages and allowance as are customary and reasonable, according to their respective stations and occupations.

SECT. 3.—And be it further enacted, That the officers and clerks to be appointed under this act, before entering upon the duties thereof, shall take an oath or affirmation before some judge of the United States, or of the Supreme Court of the State of California, faithfully and diligently to perform the duties thereof, and shall each become bound to the United States of America, with one or more sureties, to the satisfaction of the Director of the Mint and the Secretary of the Treasury or the District Attorney of the United States, for the State of California, with condition for the faithful and diligent performance of their offices.

SECT. 4.—And be it further enacted, That the general direction of the business of said Branch of the Mint of the United States, shall be under the control and regulation of the Director of the Mint at Philadelphia, subject to approbation of the Secretary of the Treasury; and for that purpose, it shall be the duty of the said Director to prescribe such regulations, and require such returns periodically and occasionally, as shall appear to him to be necessary for the purpose of carrying into effect the intention of this act in establishing the said Branch; also, for the purpose of discriminating the coin which shall be stamped at said Branch and at the Mint itself; and also for the purpose of preserving uniformity of weight, form and fineness, in the coins stamped at said Branch; and for that purpose, to require the transmission and delivery to him at the Mint, from time to time, of such parcels of the coinage of said Branch as he shall think proper, to be subjected to such assays and tests as he shall direct.

Salaries of  
Officers.

Wages of  
Workmen.

Security re-  
quired of  
Officers and  
Clerks.

Director of  
the Mint to  
have control  
of the  
Branch Mint.

His duties  
for that  
object.

Laws regulating the Mint to be applied to said Branch.

SECT. 5.—And be it further enacted, &c., That all the laws and parts of laws now in force for the regulation of the Mint of the United States, and for the government of the officers and persons employed therein, and for the punishment of all offences connected with the Mint or coinage of the United States, shall be, and they are hereby, declared to be in full force in relation to the Branch of the Mint by this act established, so far as the same may be applicable thereto.

Branch to be exempt from State Taxation.

SECT. 6.—And be it further enacted, that no permanent location of said Mint shall be made or buildings erected therefor until the State of California shall, by some law or other public act, pledge the faith of the State that no tax shall at any time be laid, assessed, or collected by the said State, or under the authority of the said State, on the said Branch Mint, or on the buildings which may be erected therefor, or on the fixtures and machinery which may be used therein, or on the lands on which the same may be placed; but nothing in this section contained, shall be understood as implying an admission that any such power of taxation rightfully exists.

To be place of deposit for public money, the Treasurer to perform the duties of Assistant Treasurer.

SECT. 7.—And be it further enacted, That the said Branch Mint shall be the place of deposit for the public moneys collected in the custom houses in the State of California, and for such other public moneys as the Secretary of the Treasury may direct; and the Treasurer of said Branch Mint shall have the custody of the same, and shall perform the duties of an assistant Treasurer, and for that purpose, shall be subject to all the provisions contained in an act entitled "An act to provide for the better organization of the Treasury, and for the collection, safe keeping, transfer, and disbursement of the public revenue," approved August the sixth, one thousand eight hundred and forty-six, which relates to the Treasurer of the Branch Mint at New Orleans.

SECT. 8.—And be it further enacted, That if required by the holder, gold in grain or lumps shall be refined, assayed, cast into bars or ingots, and stamped in said Branch Mint or in the Mint of the United States or any of its branches, in such manner as may indicate the value and fineness of the bar or ingot, which shall be paid for by the owner or holder of said bullion, at such rates and charges and under such regulations as the Director of the Mint under the control of the Secretary of the Treasury, may from time to time establish.

Gold to be  
issued in as-  
sayed bars or  
ingots.

SECT. 9.—And be it further enacted, That so soon as the said Branch Mint is established in the State of California, and public notice shall be given thereof in the mode to be designated by the Secretary of the Treasury, then so much of the act making appropriations for the civil and diplomatic expenses of the government, for the year ending 30th June, 1851, and for other purposes, as provides for the appointment of an United States Assayer, and the contracting for the assaying and fixing the value of gold in grains or lumps and for forming the same into bars, be, and the whole of the clause containing said provisions shall be hereby repealed.

Act provid-  
ing for U. S.  
Assayer in  
California re-  
pealed when  
this Act  
takes effect.

SECT. 10.—And be it further enacted, That before the Secretary of the Treasury shall procure or erect the buildings provided for in the second section of this act, or commence operations under any of the provisions of the same, at San Francisco, State of California, it shall first be his duty to make a contract or contracts, for the erection of said buildings, and procuring the machinery necessary for the operations of said Mint, at a sum or sums which shall not, in the whole, exceed the sum of three hundred thousand dollars, which said contract or contracts shall be secured by good and sufficient sureties, to the satisfaction of the said Secretary of the Treasury and the President of the United States. (Act of July 3d, 1852, c. 54.)

Building and  
Machinery  
not to exceed  
\$300,000.

No building  
to be pur-  
chased for  
said Branch.

And be it further enacted, That the time for receiving bids under the act of third of July, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-two, for the erection of a Mint in California, be extended to the first of April, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three, and that the sum of three hundred thousand dollars appropriated by said act, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be applied only to the erection and putting in operation a Mint in California, and not to the purchase of any building for that purpose. (Act of March 3d, 1853, c. 96, s. 6.)

## XVII.

### COINAGE OF DOUBLE EAGLE, GOLD DOLLAR, AND THREE CENT PIECE AUTHORIZED.

Double  
Eagle and  
Gold Dollar  
authorized.

SECT. 1.—Be it enacted, &c., That there shall be, from time to time, struck and coined at the Mint of the United States, and the Branches thereof, conformably in all respects to law, (except that on the reverse of the gold dollar the figure of the eagle shall be omitted,) and conformably in all respects to the standard for gold coins now established by law, coins of gold of the following denominations and values, viz.: double eagles, each to be of the value of twenty dollars or units; and gold dollars, each to be of the value of one dollar, or unit.

A Legal  
Tender.

SECT. 2.—That for all sums whatever, the double eagle shall be a legal tender for twenty dollars; and the gold dollar shall be a legal tender for one dollar.

Laws re'at-  
ing to coin-  
age applica-  
ble thereto.

SECT. 3.—That all laws now in force in relation to the coins of the United States, and the striking and coining of the same, shall, so far as applicable, have full force and effect in relation to the coins herein authorized, whether the said laws are penal or otherwise; and whether they are for preventing counterfeiting or debasement, for protecting the currency, for regulating and guarding the process of striking and coining, and the preparations therefor, or for the security of the coin, or for any other purpose.

SECT. 4.—That in adjusting the weights of gold coins henceforward, the following deviations from the standard weight shall not be exceeded in any of the single pieces, namely, in the double eagle, the eagle, and the half eagle, one half of a grain, and in the quarter eagle and gold dollar, one quarter of a grain, and that in weighing a large number of pieces together; when delivered from the Chief Coiner to the Treasurer, and from the Treasurer to the depositors, the deviation from the standard weight shall not exceed three pennyweights in one thousand double eagles; two pennyweights in one thousand eagles; one and one-half pennyweights in one thousand half eagles; one pennyweight in one thousand quarter eagles; and one half pennyweight in one thousand gold dollars. (Act of March 3d, 1849, c. 109.)

Deviation of weight allowed in the gold coin.

And be it further enacted, That from and after the passage of this act, it shall be lawful to coin at the Mint of the United States and its Branches, a piece of the denomination and legal value of three cents, or three hundredths of a dollar, to be composed of [three-fourths silver and one fourth copper, and to weigh twelve grains and three-eighths of a grain;]\* that the said coin shall bear such devices as shall be conspicuously different from those of the other silver coins, and of the gold dollar, but having the inscription United States of America, and its denomination and date; and that it shall be a legal tender, in payment of debts for all sums of thirty cents and under; and that no ingots shall be used for the coinage of the three cent piece herein authorized, of which the quality differs more than five-thousandths from the legal standard; and that in adjusting the weight of the said coin, the following deviations from the standard weight shall not be exceeded, namely, one half of a grain in the single piece, and one pennyweight in a thousand pieces. (Act of March 3d, 1851, c. 21, § 11.)

Three Cent Piece authorized.

\* See page 44, Act of Mar. 3, 1853, § 7.

A Legal tender for Thirty Cents.

Allowed variations of weight and fineness.



## XVIII.

AMENDMENTS RELATING TO SILVER COIN-  
AGE, MINT CHARGES, STAMPED BARS, &c.

New weights  
prescribed  
for half dol-  
lar, quarter  
dollar, dime,  
and half  
dime.

\* See page 44,  
Act of Mar.  
3, 1853.

Be it enacted by the Senate and house of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That from and after the first day of June, eighteen hundred and fifty-two,\* the weight of the half dollar piece or fifty cents shall be one hundred and ninety-two grains, and the quarter dollar, dime and half-dime, shall be, respectively, one-half, one-fifth and one-tenth, of the weight of said half dollar.

Legal tender  
for \$5.

SECT. 2.—And be it further enacted, That the silver coins issued in conformity with the above section, shall be legal tenders in payment of debts for all sums not exceeding five dollars.

Regulations  
as to their  
coinage and  
the profits  
thereof.

SECT. 3.—And be it further enacted, that in order to procure bullion for the requisite coinage of the subdivisions of the dollar authorized by this act, the Treasurer of the Mint shall, with the approval of the Director, purchase such bullion with the bullion fund of the Mint. He shall charge himself with the gain arising from the coinage of such bullion into coin of a nominal value exceeding the intrinsic value thereof, and shall be credited with the difference between such intrinsic value and the price paid for said bullion, and with the expense of distributing said coins as herein-after provided. The balances to his credit, or the profit of said coinage, shall be, from time to time, on a warrant of the Director of the Mint, transferred to the account of the Treasury of the United States.

How said  
coins to be  
distributed.

SECT. 4.—And be it further enacted, That such coins shall be paid out at the Mint in exchange for gold coins at par, in sums not less than one hundred dollars; and it shall be lawful, also, to transmit parcels of the same from time to time to the assistant Treasurers, depositories, and other officers of the United States, under

general regulations, proposed by the Director of the Mint, and approved by the Secretary of the Treasury: Provided, however, That the amount coined into quarter dollars, dimes, and half dimes, shall be regulated by the Secretary of the Treasury.

SECT. 5.—And be it further enacted, That no deposits for coinage into the half dollar, quarter dollar, dime and half dime, shall hereafter be received, other than those made by the Treasurer of the Mint, as herein authorized, and upon account of the United States.

Private deposits for coinage in such pieces prohibited.

SECT. 6.—And be it further enacted, That at the option of the depositor, gold or silver may be cast into bars or ingots of either pure metal or of standard fineness, as the owner may prefer, with a stamp upon the same, designating its weight and fineness; but no piece of either gold or silver, shall be cast into bars or ingots of a less weight than ten ounces, except pieces of one ounce, of two ounces, of three ounces, and of five ounces, all of which pieces of less weight than ten ounces shall be of the standard fineness, with their weight and fineness stamped upon them; [but in cases whether the gold and silver deposited be coined or cast into bars or ingots, there shall be a charge to the depositor in addition to the charge now made for refining or parting the metals, of one-half of one per centum;] the money arising from this charge of one-half per centum shall be charged to the Treasurer of the Mint, and, from time to time, on warrant of the Director of the Mint, shall be transferred into the treasury of the United States: Provided however, That nothing contained in this section shall be considered as applying to the half dollar, the quarter dollar, the dime, and half dime.

Authorizing assayed bars, ingots or disks.

Modified by Act of Mar. 3, 1853. See page 44.

Charges for coinage required to be transferred to U. S. Treasury.

SECT. 7.—And be it further enacted, That from time to time there shall be struck and coined at the Mint of the United States and the branches thereof, conformably in all respects to law, and conformably in all respects to the standard of gold coins now established by law,

Three dollar piece authorized.

Devices to  
be fixed by  
Secretary of  
Treasury.

a coin of gold of the value of three dollars or units, and all the provisions of an act entitled "An Act to authorize the coinage of gold dollars and double eagles," approved March third, eighteen hundred and forty-nine, shall be applied to the coin herein authorized, so far as the same may be applicable; but the devices and shape of the three dollar piece shall be fixed by the Secretary of the Treasury.

\* See page 41,  
Act of Mar. 3,  
'51, *infra*.

SECT. 8.—And be it further enacted, That this act shall be in force from and after the first day of June next.\* (Act of February 21, 1853, c. 79.)

Of charges  
for making  
bars, ingots  
or disks.

And be it further enacted, That when gold or silver shall be cast into bars or ingots, or formed into disks at the Mint of the United States or any of the Branches thereof, or at any assay office of the United States, the charge for refining, casting, or forming said bars, ingots, or disks, shall be equal to, but not exceed, the actual cost of the operation, including labor, wasteage, use of machinery, materials, &c., to be regulated from time to time by the Secretary of the Treasury. And the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized to regulate the size and devices of the new silver coin authorized by an act entitled "An Act amendatory of existing laws relative to the half dollar, quarter dollar, dime, and half dime," passed at the present session; and that to procure such devices, as also the models, moulds, and matrices, or original dies for the coins, disks, or ingots authorized by said act, the Director of the Mint is empowered, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, to engage temporarily for that purpose the services of one or more artists, distinguished in their respective departments, who shall be paid for such services from the contingent appropriation for the Mint: And that hereafter the three cent coin now authorized by law shall be made of the weight of three-fiftieths of the weight of the half dollar, as provided in said act, and of the same standard of fineness. And the said act enti-

Of the  
devices of  
silver coin  
and the mode  
of procuring  
new dies.

Standard  
weight and  
fineness of  
three cent  
piece altered.

tled "An Act amendatory of existing laws relative to the half dollar, quarter dollar, dime, and half dime," shall take effect and be in full force from and after the first day of April, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three, any thing therein to the contrary notwithstanding. (Act of March 3, 1853, c. 96, § 7.)

Silver coin-  
age bill takes  
effect April  
1, 1853.

## XIX. •

AMENDMENT RELATIVE TO THE BULLION  
FUND FOR PAYMENT OF DEPOSITS.

Be it enacted, &c.,—That for the purpose of enabling the Mint and Branch Mints of the United States, to make returns to depositors with as little delay as possible, it shall be lawful for the President of the United States, when the state of the Treasury shall admit thereof, to direct transfers to be made from time to time to the Mint and Branch Mints, for such sums of public money as he shall judge convenient and necessary, out of which those who bring bullion to the Mint may be paid the value thereof, as soon as practicable after this value has been ascertained; that the bullion so deposited shall become the property of the United States; that no discount or interest shall be charged on money so advanced; and that the Secretary of the Treasury may at any time withdraw the said deposit, or any part thereof, or may, at his discretion, allow the coins formed at the Mint, to be given for their equivalent in other money: Provided, That the bonds given by the United States' Treasurers and Superintendents of the Mints shall be renewed or increased at the discretion of the Secretary of the Treasury, under the operation of this act. (Act of May 23, 1850, c. 12.)

Bullion fund  
for payment  
of dep. sits  
not restricted  
in amount;  
see page  
Act Jan. 18,  
'37, § 31.

## XX.

## PROFITS OF THE MINT.

Profits of the Mint to be paid to the Treasury. \* \* \* and it shall be the duty of the Director of the Mint to cause to be paid annually into the Treasury of the United States, the profits of the Mint, and to present a quarterly account of the expenditures of the Mint to the Secretary of the Treasury. \* \* \* (Act of March 4, 1853, c. 97.)

## XXI.

## REFINING OF GOLD BULLION AT THE MINT.

Refining of gold in private establishments to be encouraged.

And be it further enacted, That when private establishments shall be made to refine gold bullion, the Secretary of the Treasury, if he shall deem them capable of executing such work, is hereby authorized and required to limit the amount thereof which shall be refined in the Mint at Philadelphia, from quarter to quarter, and to reduce the same progressively, as such establishments shall be extended or multiplied, so as eventually, and as soon as may be, to exclude refining from the Mint, and require that every deposit of gold bullion made therein for coinage shall be adapted to said purpose, without need of refining: Provided, that no advances in coin shall be made upon bullion after this regulation shall be carried into effect except upon bullion refined, as herein prescribed. (Act of March 4, 1853, c. 97, § 5.)

## XXII.

ESTABLISHING AN ASSAY OFFICE IN  
NEW YORK.

SECT. 10.—And be it further enacted, That the Sec-

retary of the Treasury is hereby authorized and required to establish in the city of New York an office <sup>Assay office established in New York.</sup> for the receipt, and for the melting, refining, parting, and assaying of gold and silver bullion and foreign coins, and for casting the same into bars, ingots, or disks. The Assistant Treasurer of the United States in New York shall be Treasurer of the said assay office, and the Secretary of the Treasury shall, with the approbation and consent of the President of the United States, appoint such other officers and clerks, and authorize the employment of such assistants, work- <sup>Officers, clerks and workmen.</sup> men and servants as shall be necessary for the proper conduct and management of the said office, and of the business pertaining thereto, at such compensation as shall be approved by the President: <sup>Their compensation.</sup> Provided, That the same shall not exceed that allowed for corresponding services under existing laws relating to the Mint of the United States and its Branches.

SECT. 11.—And be it further enacted, That the owner or owners of any gold or silver bullion, in dust or otherwise, or of any foreign coin, shall be entitled to deposit the same in the said office, and the Treasurer thereof shall give a receipt, stating the weight and description thereof, in the manner and under the regulations that are or may be provided in like cases of deposits at the Mint of the United States, with the Treasurer thereof. And such bullion shall without delay be melted, parted, refined, and assayed, and the net value thereof, and of all foreign coins deposited in said office, shall be ascertained, and the Treasurer shall thereupon forthwith issue his certificate of the net value thereof, payable in coins of the same metal as that deposited, either at the office of the Assistant Treasurer <sup>Where certificates of deposit payable.</sup> of the United States in New York, or at the Mint of the United States, at the option of the depositor, to be expressed in the certificate, which certificates shall be receivable at any time within sixty days from the date

Receivable  
for U. S. dues  
at New York.

Bullion may  
be cast into  
bars if re-  
quired.

Bullion to be  
transferred  
to the Mint  
for coinage.

Adjustment  
of accounts  
on transfers  
of Bullion.

Assay office  
under gene-  
ral direction  
of the Direc-  
tor of the  
Mint.

Laws relative  
to the Mint

thereof, in payment of all debts due to the United States at the port of New York for the full sum therein certified. All gold or silver bullion and foreign coin deposited, melted, parted, refined or assayed, as aforesaid, shall, at the option of the depositor, be cast in the said office into bars, ingots, or disks, either of pure metal or of standard fineness, (as the owner may prefer,) with a stamp thereon of such form and device as shall be prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury, accurately designating its weight and fineness: Provided, That no ingot, bar, or disk shall be cast of less weight than five ounces, unless the same be of standard fineness, and of either one, two, or three ounces in weight. And all gold or silver bullion, and foreign coin, intended by the depositor to be converted into the coins of the United States, shall as soon as assayed and its net value certified as above provided, be transferred to the Mint of the United States, under such directions as shall be made by the Secretary of the Treasury, and at the expense of the contingent fund of the Mint, and shall there be coined. And the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized, with the approval of the President of the United States, to make the necessary regulations for the adjustment of the accounts between the respective officers, upon the transfer of any bullion or coin between the assay office, the Mint and assistant Treasurer in New York.

SECT. 12.—And be it further enacted, That the operations of melting, parting, refining, and assaying in the said office, shall be under the general directions of the Director of the Mint, in subordination to the Secretary of the Treasury; and it shall be the duty of the said Director to prescribe such regulations, and to order such tests as shall be requisite to insure faithfulness, accuracy, and uniformity in the operations of the said office.

SECT. 13.—And be it further enacted, That the laws of the United States for the government of the

Mint and its officers in relation to the receipt, payment, custody of deposits, and settlement of accounts, the duties and responsibilities of officers and others employed therein, the oath to be taken and the bond and sureties to be given by them (as far as the same may be applicable) shall extend to the assay office hereby established and to its officers, assistants, clerks, workmen and others employed therein.

SECT. 14.—And be it further enacted, That the same charges shall be made and demanded at the said assay office for refining, parting, casting into bars, ingots, or disks, and for alloy, as are, or shall be made and demanded at the Mint; and no other charges shall be made to depositors than by law are authorized to be made at the Mint; and the amount received from the charges hereby authorized shall be accounted for and appropriated for defraying the contingent expenses of the said office.

SECT. 15.—And be it further enacted, That the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to procure by rent, lease or otherwise, a building or apartments in the city of New York, suitable for the operations of said office, unless he shall be of opinion that suitable apartments in the custom house in that city may be assigned for this purpose. And he is also hereby authorized and directed to procure the necessary machinery and implements for the carrying on the operations and business of the said office.

SECT. 16.—And be it further enacted, That the salary of the Assistant Treasurer of the United States in New York, from and after the time that the said office shall be opened and in operation, shall be six thousand dollars per annum, instead of the sum now allowed.—(Act of March 4th, 1853, c. 97, § 10 to 16.)

SECT. 1.—\* \* \* \* For carrying into effect the provisions of this act establishing an assay office in the city of New York, in addition to the charges authorized



to be received, one hundred thousand dollars is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated. \* \* \* \* \*—(Act of March 4th, 1853, c. 97.)

## XXIII.

## SALARIES AT BRANCH MINT, NEW ORLEANS.

Be it enacted, &c.,—At New Orleans. For salaries of Superintendent, Treasurer, Assayer, Coiner, Melter and Refiner, and Clerks, seventeen thousand three hundred dollars—the salary of the Treasurer being hereby increased from first July, 1850, to four thousand dollars; the salary of Chief Clerk to eighteen hundred dollars; of the other Clerks to fifteen hundred dollars; and the employment of an additional Clerk at fifteen hundred dollars is hereby authorized. (General Appropriation Bill, Sept. 30th 1850.)

## XXIV.

## SECTION 13, ACT AUGUST 4, 1854.

Increase of  
salary of  
clerks in the  
Mint author-  
ized.

That the 7th Section of the Act of January eighteenth, eighteen hundred and thirty-seven, entitled, An Act supplementary to the act entitled, "An Act establishing a Mint, and regulating the coins of the United States," be so amended as to extend the limit for the annual salary of Clerks in the Mint of the United States to eighteen hundred dollars each, from and after the first day of July, eighteen hundred and fifty-four, at the discretion of the officers authorized by law to appoint, with the approbation of the President of the United States, including also one Clerk in the office of the Assistant Treasurer at Philadelphia, and that the salary of the Chief Clerk at New Orleans, shall be twenty-two hundred dollars from and after the first of July, 1854.

## XXV.

AN ACT RELATING TO FOREIGN COINS AND  
TO THE COINAGE OF CENTS AT THE MINT  
OF THE UNITED STATES.

SECTION 1.—Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the pieces commonly known as the quarter, eighth, and sixteenth of the Spanish pillar dollar, and of the Mexican dollar, shall be receivable at the treasury of the United States, and its several offices, and at the several post-offices and land-offices, at the rates of valuation following,—that is to say, the fourth of a dollar, or piece of two reals, at twenty cents; the eighth of a dollar, or piece of one real, at ten cents; and the sixteenth of a dollar, or half real, at five cents.

How much Spanish and Mexican coins are to be received for by United States.

SEC. 2.—And be it further enacted, That the said coins, when so received, shall not again be paid out, or put in circulation, but shall be recoined at the Mint. And it shall be the duty of the Director of the Mint, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, to prescribe such regulations as may be necessary and proper to secure their transmission to the Mint for recoinage, and the return or distribution of the proceeds thereof, when deemed expedient, and to prescribe such forms of account as may be appropriate and applicable to the circumstances: *Provided*, That the expenses incident to such transmission or distribution, and of recoinage, shall be charged against the account of silver profit and loss, and the net profits, if any, shall be paid from time to time into the Treasury of the United States.

Said coins to be recoined.

SEC. 3.—And be it further enacted, That all former acts authorizing the currency of foreign gold or silver coins, and declaring the same a legal tender in payment

Former acts making foreign coins a currency or legal tender repealed.

Assays of foreign coins to be made, and annually reported.

for debts, are hereby repealed; but it shall be the duty of the Director of the Mint to cause assays to be made, from time to time, of such foreign coins as may be known to our commerce, to determine their average weight, fineness, and value, and to embrace in his annual report a statement of the results thereof.

Weight and composition of cents.

SEC. 4.—And be it further enacted, That from and after the passage of this act, the standard weight of the cent coined at the Mint shall be seventy-two grains, or three twentieths of one ounce troy, with no greater deviation than four grains in each piece; and said cent shall be composed of eighty-eight per centum of copper and twelve per centum of nickel, of such shape and device as may be fixed by the Director of the Mint, with the approbation of the Secretary of the Treasury; and the coinage of the half cent shall cease.

Purchase of bullion therefor.

SEC. 5.—And be it further enacted, That the Treasurer of the Mint, under the instruction of the Secretary of the Treasury, shall, from time to time, purchase from the bullion fund of the Mint the materials necessary for the coinage of such cent piece, and transfer the same to the proper operative officers of the Mint to be manufactured and returned in coin. And the laws in force relating to the Mint and the coinage of the precious metals, and in regard to the sale and distribution of the copper coins, shall, so far as applicable, be extended to the coinage herein provided for: *Provided*, That the net profits of said coinage, ascertained in like manner as is prescribed in the second section of this act, shall be transferred to the Treasury of the United States.

Former laws extended to such cents.

Profits.

Such cents may be paid out and transmitted, &c.

SEC. 6.—And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful to pay out the said cent at the Mint in exchange for any of the gold and silver coins of the United States, and also in exchange for the former copper coins issued: and it shall be lawful to transmit parcels of the said cents, from time to time, to the Assistant Treasurers, Depositaries, and other officers of the United States, under general regulations proposed by the Director of the

Mint, and approved by the Secretary of the Treasury, for exchange as aforesaid. And it shall also be lawful for the space of two years from the passage of this act, and no longer, to pay out at the Mint the cents aforesaid for the fractional parts of the dollar hereinbefore named, at their nominal value of twenty-five, twelve-and-a-half and six-and-a-quarter cents, respectively.

To be paid out for certain coins at old rate for two years.

Annual report of Director of the Mint to be made up to June 30.

SEC. 7.—And be it further enacted, That hereafter the Director of the Mint shall make his annual report to the Secretary of the Treasury, up to the thirtieth of June in each year, so that the same may appear in his annual report to Congress on the finances.

APPROVED, February 21, 1857.

*A statement of foreign gold and silver coins, prepared by the Director of the Mint to accompany his Annual Report, in pursuance of the Act of February 21, 1857.*

#### EXPLANATORY REMARKS.

Only the principal denominations of coin in each country are set down, other sizes being proportional. When this is not the case, the deviation is stated.

The weight is given in the troy ounce, and decimal fractions thereof, without being carried out to an extreme. This method is preferable to the weight in grains for commercial uses, and corresponds better with the terms of the Mint.

The valuation of gold is given in two columns. In the first is shown the value as compared with the legal content or amount of fine gold in our coin. In the second is shown the value as paid at the Mint after the uniform deduction of one-half of one per cent. The former is the value for any other purpose than coinage, and especially for the purpose of comparison; the latter is the value in exchange for our coins at the Mint.

For the silver there is no fixed legal valuation. The law provides for a shifting of price according to the circumstances of demand and supply. At the moment of making this report the price, which previously was  $122\frac{1}{2}$  cents per ounce of standard fineness, has been reduced to 121 cents, at which rate the ensuing values are calculated.

## GOLD COINS.

Country.	Denomination.	Weight.	Finen's.	Value.	Value after deduction.
		Oz. dec.	Thous.	D. C. M.	D. C. M.
Australia .....	Pound of 1852.....	0.281	916.5	5.32.0	5.29.3
Do .....	Do of 1855.....	0.256	916.5	4.85.0	4.82.6
Austria.....	Ducat.....	0.112	986	2.28.0	2.26.9
Do .....	Souverain.....	0.363	900	6.77.0	6.73.6
Belgium.....	Twenty-five francs.....	0.254	899	4.72.0	4.69.7
Bolivia .....	Doubloon .....	0.867	870	15.58.0	15.50.2
Brazil .....	20,000 reis.....	0.575	917.5	10.90.5	10.85.1
Central America...	Two escudors.....	0.209	853.5	3.68.0	3.66.2
Chili .....	Old Doubloon.....	0.867	870	15.57.0	15.49.2
Do .....	Ten pesos.....	0.492	900	9.15.3	9.10.7
Denmark .....	Ten thaler.....	0.427	895	7.90.0	7.86.1
Ecuador.....	Four escudors.....	0.433	844	7.60.0	7.56.2
England .....	Pound, or sovereign, new..	0.256.7	916.5	4.86.3	4.83.9
Do .....	Do average.....	0.256	915.5	4.84.8	4.82.4
France .....	Twenty francs, new.....	0.207.5	899.5	3.86.0	3.84.1
Do .....	Do average.....	0.207	899	3.84.5	3.82.6
Germany, north...	Ten thaler.....	0.427	895	7.90.0	7.86.1
Do .....	Do Prussian.....	0.427	903	8.00.0	7.96.
Do south...	Ducat.....	0.112	986	2.28.3	2.27.2
Greece.....	Twenty drachms.....	0.185	900	3.45.0	3.43.3
Hindustan.....	Mohur.....	0.374	916	7.08.0	7.04.5
Mexico.....	Doubloon, average.....	0.867.5	866	15.53.4	15.45.6
Naples.....	Six ducati, new.....	0.245	996	5.04.0	5.01.5
Netherlands .....	Ten guilders.....	0.215	899	3.99.0	3.97.0
New Granada.....	Old doubloon, Bogota.....	0.868	870	15.61.7	15.53.9
Do .....	Do Popayan.....	0.867	858	15.39.0	15.31.3
Do .....	Ten pesos, new.....	0.525	891.5	9.67.5	9.62.7
Peru .....	Old doubloon.....	0.867	863	15.56.0	15.48.2
Do .....	New, not ascertained.....				
Portugal .....	Gold crown.....	0.308	912	5.81.3	5.78.4
Rome .....	2½ scudi, new.....	0.140	900	2.60.0	2.58.7
Russia.....	Five Roubles.....	0.210	916	3.97.6	3.95.7
Sardinia.....	Same as France.....				
Spain .....	100 reals.....	0.268	896	4.96.3	4.93.9
Sweden.....	Ducat.....	0.111	975	2.26.7	2.25.6
Turkey.....	100 Piastres.....	0.231	915	4.37.4	4.35.2
Tuscany .....	Sequin.....	0.112	999	2.30.0	2.28.9

JAMES ROSS SNOWDEN,

Director of Mint.

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES,

Philadelphia, November 9, 1858.

## SILVER COINS.

Country.	Denomination.	Weight.	Value.	
			Finen's.	
		Oz. dec.	Thous.	D.C.M.
Austria .....	Rix dollars .....	0.902	833	1.01.3
Austria .....	Scudo or six lire.. ..	0.836	902	1.01.5
Austria.....	20 kreutzer.....	0.215	582	16.8
Belgium.....	Five francs.....	0.803	897	96.8
Bolivia.....	Dollar.....	0.871	900.5	1.05.4
Bolivia.....	Half dollar, 1830.....	0.433	670	38.5
Bolivia.....	Quarter dollar, 1830.....	0.216	670	19.2
Brazil.....	2,000 reis.....	0.820	918.5	1.01.3
Central America.....	Dollar.....	0.866	850	97.3
Chili.....	Old dollar.....	0.864	908	1.04.7
Chili.....	New dollar.....	0.801	900.5	97.0
Denmark.....	Two rigsdaler.....	0.927	877	1.09.4
England.....	Shilling, new.....	0.182.5	924.5	22.7
England.....	Shilling, average.....	0.178	925	22.2
France.....	Five francs, average.....	0.800	900	96.8
Germany, north.....	Thaler.....	0.712	750	71.7
Germany, south.....	Gulden or florin.....	0.340	900	41.2
Germany, north and south.....	2 thaler or 3½ guld.....	1.192	900	1.44.3
Greece.....	Five drachms.....	0.719	900	86.9
Hindustan.....	Rupee.....	0.374	916	46.0
Japan.....	Itzebu.....	0.279	991	37.0
Mexico.....	Dollar, average.....	0.866	901	1.04.9
Naples.....	Scudo.....	0.884	830	98.8
Netherlands.....	2½ guilder.....	0.804	944	1.02.3
Norway.....	Specie-daler.....	0.927	877	1.09.4
New Grenada.....	Dollar of 1857.....	0.803	896	96.8
Peru.....	Old dollar.....	0.866	901	1.04.9
Peru.....	Old dollar of 1855.....	0.766	909	93.6
Peru.....	Half dollar, 1835-'38.....	0.433	650	37.7
Portugal.....	Silver crown.....	0.950	912	1.16.6
Rome.....	Scudo.....	0.864	900	1.04.7
Russia.....	Rouble.....	0.667	875	78.4
Sardinia.....	Five lire.....	0.800	900	96.8
Spain.....	New pistareen.....	0.166	899	20.1
Sweden.....	Rix dollar.....	1.092	750	1.10.1
Switzerland.....	Two francs.....	0.323	899	39.0
Turkey.....	Twenty piastres.....	0.770	830	86.5
Tuscany.....	Florin.....	0.220	925	27.4

JAMES ROSS SNOWDEN,

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES,

*Director of the Mint.**Philadelphia, November 9, 1858.*

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Geo. W. Bidde Esq  
with the assistance of  
J. R. Snowden.

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Mint of the United States.

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ANNUAL ASSAY.

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# MINT OF THE UNITED STATES.

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## ANNUAL ASSAY.

RULES AND LAWS REGULATING THE SAME,

WITH A STATEMENT OF THE PROCESSES EMPLOYED THEREIN,

AND

A REPORT MADE BY THE BOARD FOR 1857.

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PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE MINT.

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PHILADELPHIA:  
BENJAMIN F. MIFFLIN, WALNUT STREET.  
1857.

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MINT OF THE UNITED STATES.

ANNUAL ASSAY.

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**R U L E S**

**FOR THE**

**ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNMENT**

**OF THE**

**BOARD OF ASSAY COMMISSIONERS.**

PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD FOR 1856,  
AND ADOPTED BY THE BOARD IN 1857.

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**I.**

The chair will be taken, at the appointed hour, by <sup>Officers.</sup> the Judge of the District Court of the United States, or, in case of his absence, by such member as the Commissioners present may designate; the Director's clerk will act as Secretary, unless otherwise ordered by the Board.

**II.**

The letters of the Secretary of the Treasury, naming <sup>Letters.</sup> the Commissioners who have been specially designated by the President of the United States, will be read.

**III.**

A quorum being present, the Secretary will read <sup>Quorum</sup> the 32d Section of the Act of Congress of the 18th of

January, 1837, under which the Commission is constituted; the several laws bearing upon the duties of the Commissioners; the Rules for the organization and government of the Board; and the minutes of the last preceding assay.

#### IV.

Reserved  
coin.

The "reserved coins" having been produced by the officers in charge of them, the several packages in which they are contained will be opened in the presence of the Commissioners, and the coin distributed by them in parcels, with reference to their places of coinage and their metallic character, as follows:

1. Gold coins from the Mint at Philadelphia:
2. Silver coins from the same:
3. Gold coins from the Branch Mint at New Orleans:
4. Silver coins from the same:
5. Gold coins from the Branch Mint at San Francisco:
6. Silver coins from the same:
7. Gold coins from the Branch Mint at Charlotte:
8. Gold coins from the Branch Mint at Dahlonega.

But when it shall be made known to the Board, that at the Mint or either of the Branches, there has taken place, during the year, a change in any of the Officers that are responsible for the coinage, the coins made during the terms of the respective incumbents, will be distributed in separate parcels.

#### V.

Coins to be  
weighed.

The number of coins contained in each parcel will then be ascertained by weighing in the manner ordinarily practised at the Mint, and in accordance with the number reported as "reserved," shall be noted by the Secretary on the minutes.

## VI.

The Chairman will then arrange the members of the Board in two committees; one to take charge of the weighing, the other of the assaying; with power to associate members interchangeably, and to require the manipulatory aid of the officers of the Mint.

## VII.

### OF THE WEIGHING.

- A. The committee on weighing shall take from each <sup>Committee on weighing.</sup> parcel of the coins, as distributed, two or more piles,—each of ten or more pieces, and embracing two or more denominations,—and five or more single pieces, of two or more differing denominations.
- B. They shall arrange the piles, and the single pieces, thus taken out, with the Mint marks downwards, in such order that the particular place of mintage shall be known only to the members of the committee.
- C. The piles, and the single pieces, shall then be severally weighed under the scrutiny of the committee, and their respective weights ascertained; the piles to the one thousandth of an ounce, the single pieces to the eighth of a grain; and the results shall be noted, with a special reference as to any that may be found without the legal limits of weight.
- D. The committee shall then examine the weights, ordinarily employed in the Mint, and shall attest their accordance with the standards prescribed by law.



## VIII.

## OF THE ASSAYING.

- Of Assaying. E. The committee on Assaying shall receive the residues of the several parcels of reserved coins; and adding to them,—if it shall be necessary, but not otherwise,—from the piles in the possession of the committee on weighing; shall first cause a portion of each parcel to be melted into an ingot of convenient size; and from each of the ingots, so made, they shall take test samples for assay.
- F. They shall then select a convenient number, not less than three, of single pieces of diverse denominations from each parcel; from which they shall take test samples for assay.
- G. They shall then arrange all the test samples in such order as shall be known only to the members of the committee; and in that order such sample shall be assayed, the silver first, and the gold afterwards.
- H. Should the operations of the assay be not consummated before the adjournment of the Board for the day, the parcels of reserved coins, ingots, and test samples will remain in a chest or vault, under the joint and separate charge of the Chairman, and the Director of the Mint.

## IX.

- Committee to report. The weighings and assayings having been completed under the scrutiny of the committees, respectively, the committees will report, fully and specially, as to the coins of each Mint.

**X.**

And thereupon the Commissioners will proceed to declare their judgment by an open vote; and a full record thereof, and of all their doings, having been engrossed by the Secretary, it will be signed by all the members, and delivered to the Director of the Mint. After which the Board will be adjourned *sine die*.

Record of  
business.

Adjourn-  
ment.

The foregoing rules have been prepared as a convenient mode of discharging the duties assigned to the Commissioners of the Annual Assay. They will, however, be subject to such modifications, or alterations, as a majority of the Board may, at any time during each annual assay, deem expedient and proper.

LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES

WHICH RELATE TO THE RESERVATION OF

COINS FOR THE ANNUAL ASSAY,

AND TO THE

DUTIES OF THE COMMISSIONERS.

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ACT OF JANUARY 18th, 1837.

SECT. 27.—*And be it further enacted,* That at every delivery of coins made by the Chief Coiner to the Treasurer, it shall be the duty of the Treasurer, in the presence of the Assayer, to take, indiscriminately, a certain number of pieces of each variety for the annual trial of coins, (the number being prescribed by the Director,) which shall be carefully labelled and deposited in a chest appropriated for the purpose, kept under the joint care of the Treasurer and Assayer, and so secured that neither can have access to its contents without the presence of the other.

SECT. 32.—*And be it further enacted,* That to secure a due conformity in the gold and silver coins, to their respective standards and weights, an annual trial shall be made of the pieces reserved for this purpose at the Mint and its Branches, before the Judge of the District Court of the United States, for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, the Attorney of the United States, for

the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and the Collector of the Port of Philadelphia, and such other persons as the President shall, from time to time, designate for that purpose, who shall meet as Commissioners for the performance of this duty, on the second Monday in February, annually, and may continue their meetings by adjournment, if necessary; and if a majority of the Commissioners shall fail to attend at any time appointed for their meeting, then the Director of the Mint shall call a meeting of the Commissioners at such other time as he may deem convenient; and that before these Commissioners, or a majority of them, and in the presence of the officers of the Mint, such examination shall be made of the reserved pieces as shall be judged sufficient; and if it shall appear that these pieces do not differ from the standard fineness and weight by a greater quantity than is allowed by law, the trial shall be considered and reported as satisfactory; but if any greater deviation from the legal standard or weight shall appear, this fact shall be certified to the President of the United States, and if, on a view of the circumstances of the case, he shall so decide, the officer or officers implicated in the error shall be thenceforward disqualified from holding their respective offices.

Standard  
for gold  
and silver  
coin.

Alloys.

Weight of  
silver coin.

SECT. 8.—*And be it further enacted*, That the standard for both gold and silver coins of the United States shall hereafter be such, that of one thousand parts by weight, nine hundred shall be of pure metal, and one hundred of alloy; and the alloy of the silver coins shall be of copper, and the alloy of the gold coins shall be of copper and silver, provided that the silver do not exceed one-half of the whole alloy.

SECT. 9.—*And be it further enacted*, That of the silver coins, the dollar shall be of the weight of four hundred and twelve and one-half grains; [the half dollar of the weight of two hundred and six and one-fourth grains;

the quarter dollar of the weight of one hundred and three and one-eighth grains; the dime, or tenth part of a dollar, of the weight of forty-one and one-fourth grains; and the half dime, or twentieth part of a dollar, of the weight of twenty and five-eighth grains.] And that dollars, [half dollars, quarter dollars, dimes, and half dimes,] shall be legal tenders of payment, according to their nominal value, for any sums whatever.\*

SECT. 10.—*And be it further enacted*, That of the gold coins, the weight of the eagle shall be two hundred and fifty-eight grains; that of the half eagle one hundred and twenty-nine grains; and that of the quarter eagle sixty-four and one-half grains. And that, for all sums whatever, the eagle shall be a legal tender of payment for ten dollars; the half eagle for five dollars; and the quarter eagle for two-and-a-half dollars.†

SECT. 22.—*And be it further enacted*, That no ingots of gold shall be used for coinage, of which the quality differs more than two thousandths from legal standard; and that no ingots of silver shall be used for coinage, of which the quality differs more than three thousandths from the legal standard.‡

SECT. 25.—*And be it further enacted*, That in adjusting the weight of the coins, the following deviations from the standard weight shall not be exceeded in any of the single pieces:—In the dollar and half dollar, one grain and a half; in the quarter dollar, one grain; in the dime and half dime, half a grain; in the gold coins, one quarter of a grain; in the copper coins, one grain in the pennyweight; and that in weighing a large number of pieces together, when delivered from the Chief Coiner to the Treasurer, and from the Treasurer to the deposit-

\* See Acts of Feb. 21, 1853,—March 3, 1851.

† See Acts of March 3, 1849.—Feb. 21, 1853.

‡ See Act of March 3, 1851.

ors, the deviations from the standard weight shall not exceed the following limits:\* Four pennyweights in one thousand dollars; three pennyweights in one thousand half dollars; two pennyweights in one thousand quarter dollars; one pennyweight in one thousand dimes; one pennyweight in one thousand eagles; one-and-a-half pennyweight in one thousand half eagles; one pennyweight in one thousand quarter eagles.

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#### ACT OF MARCH 3d, 1849.

Deviation  
of weight  
allowed in  
the gold  
coin.

SECT. 4.—That in adjusting the weights of gold coins henceforward, the following deviation from the standard weight shall not be exceeded in any of the single pieces, namely, in the double eagle, the eagle, and the half eagle, one-half of a grain, and in the quarter eagle and gold dollar, one-quarter of a grain, and that in weighing a large number of pieces together, when delivered from the Chief Coiner to the Treasurer, and from the Treasurer to the depositors, the deviation from the standard weight shall not exceed three pennyweights in one thousand double eagles; two pennyweights in one thousand eagles; one and one-half pennyweight in one thousand half eagles: one pennyweight in one thousand quarter eagles; and one-half pennyweight in one thousand gold dollars.

\* See Acts of March 3, 1849, and March 3, 1851.

AMENDMENTS RELATING TO SILVER COINAGE, MINT CHARGES,  
STAMPED BARS, ETC.

ACT OF MARCH 3d, 1853.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives* <sup>New weights prescribed for silver coin.</sup>  
*of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*  
That from and after the first day of June, eighteen hundred and fifty-two, the weight of the half dollar or piece of fifty cents shall be one hundred and ninety-two grains, and the quarter dollar, dime, and half-dime, shall be, respectively, one-half, one-fifth, and one-tenth, of the weight of the said half dollar.

SECT. 7.—*And be it further enacted,* That, from time <sup>Three dollar pieces authorized.</sup> to time, there shall be struck and coined at the Mint of the United States, and the branches thereof, conformably in all respects to law, and conformably in all respects to the standard of gold coins now established by law, a coin of gold of the value of three dollars or units, and all the provisions of an act entitled “An act to authorize the coinage of gold dollars and double eagles,” approved March third, eighteen hundred and forty-nine, shall be applied to the coin herein authorized, so far as the same may be applicable; but the devices and shape of the three dollar piece shall be fixed by the Secretary of the Treasury.

And that hereafter the three cent coin now <sup>Standard weight and fineness of three cent piece altered.</sup> authorized by law shall be made of the weight of three-fiftieths of the weight of the half dollar, as provided in said act, and of the same standard of fineness. And the said act entitled “An act amendatory of existing laws relative to the half dollar, quarter dollar, dime, and half-dime,” shall take effect and be in full force from and after the first day of April, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three, any thing therein to the contrary notwithstanding.

## ACT OF MARCH 3d, 1835.

Director of the Mint at Philadelphia to have general control of the Branch Mints; his duties for that purpose.

SECT. 4.—*And be it further enacted*, That the general direction of the business of the said Branches of the Mint of the United States shall be under the control and regulation of the Director of the Mint at Philadelphia, subject to the approbation of the Secretary of the Treasury; and for that purpose it shall be the duty of the said Director to prescribe such regulations, and require such returns, periodically and occasionally, as shall appear to him to be necessary, for the purpose of carrying into effect the intention of this Act in establishing the said Branches: also, for the purpose of discriminating the coins which shall be stamped at each Branch, and at the Mint itself: also, for the purpose of preserving uniformity of weight, form and fineness, in the coin stamped at each place. And for that purpose, to require the transmission and delivery to him at the Mint, from time to time, of such parcels of the coinage of each Branch as he shall think proper, to be subjected to such assays and tests as he shall direct.

## STANDARD WEIGHTS OF THE MINT.

## ACT OF MAY 19th, 1828.

Standard troy pound of the Mint declared.

*Be it enacted, &c.*, That, for the purpose of securing a due conformity in weight of the coins of the United States, to the provisions of the ninth section of the Act, passed the second of April, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-two, entitled "An Act establishing a Mint, and regulating the coins of the United States," the brass troy pound weight procured by the Minister of the United States, at London, in the year one thou-



sand eight hundred and twenty-seven, for the use of the Mint, and now in the custody of the Director thereof, shall be the standard troy pound of the Mint of the United States, conformably to which the coinage thereof shall be regulated.

*And be it further enacted,* That it shall be the duty of the Director of the Mint to procure, and safely to keep, a series of standard weights, corresponding to the aforesaid troy pound, consisting of a one pound weight and the requisite sub-divisions and multiples thereof, from the hundredth part of a grain to twenty-five pounds; and that the troy weights ordinarily employed in the transactions of the Mint, shall be regulated according to the above standards, at least once in every year, under his inspection, and their accuracy tested annually in the presence of the Assay Commissioners, on the day of the annual assay.

Corresponding weights to be procured for the Mint, and attested at the annual assay.

### ACT OF MARCH 3d, 1851.

*And be it further enacted,* That from and after the passage of this Act, it shall be lawful to coin at the Mint of the United States, and its Branches, a piece of the denomination and legal value of three cents, or three hundredths of a dollar, to be composed of [three-fourths silver and one-fourth copper, and to weigh twelve grains and three-eighths of a grain ;]\* that the said coin shall bear such devices as shall be conspicuously different from those of the other silver coins, and of the gold dollar, but having the inscription "United States of America," and its denomination and date; and that it shall be a legal tender, in payment of debts,

Three cent piece authorized.

\* See Act of March 3, 1853, § 7, which requires the fineness to be 900 thousandths.

**A legal tender for thirty cents.** for all sums of thirty cents and under; and that no ingots shall be used for the coinage of the three cent pieces herein authorized, of which the quality differs more than five-thousandths from the legal standard; and that in adjusting the weight of the said coin, the following deviations from the standard weight shall not be exceeded, namely, one-half of a grain in the single pieces, and one pennyweight in a thousand pieces.

**Allowed variations of weight and fineness.**

# A BRIEF ACCOUNT

OF THE PROCESSES EMPLOYED IN THE

## ASSAY OF GOLD AND SILVER COINS

AT THE MINT OF THE UNITED STATES,

PREPARED FOR THE USE OF THE COMMISSIONERS APPOINTED TO  
ATTEND THE ANNUAL ASSAYS.



### PRINCIPLES OF THE OPERATION.

ACCORDING to law, the standard gold of the United States is so constituted, that in 1000 parts by weight, 900 shall be of pure gold, and 100 of an alloy composed of copper and silver.

The process of assay requires that the copper and silver be both entirely removed from the gold; and to effect this, two separate operations are necessary.

The first is for the removal of the copper; and this is <sup>Removal of the Copper.</sup> done by a method called *cupellation*, which is conducted in an assay furnace, in a cupel composed of calcined bones. To the other metals, lead is added; this metal possesses the properties of oxidizing and vitrifying under the action of heat, of promoting at the same time the oxidation of the copper and other base metals, and of drawing with it into the pores of the cupel, the whole of these metals, so as to separate entirely this part of the alloy, and to leave behind the gold and silver only.

Separation  
of the  
Silver.

The separation of the silver from the gold is effected by a process founded on the property possessed by nitric acid of dissolving silver, without acting upon gold. But that the gold may not protect the silver from this action, sufficient silver must first be added to make it at least two-thirds of the mass. The process to be described is based upon the rule of *quartation*, in which the proportion of silver is three-fourths.

## PROCESS OF ASSAY.

Melting of  
the re-  
served  
coins.

The reserved gold coins are placed in a black lead crucible, and covered with borax, to assist the fluxing and to prevent oxidation of the copper alloy. They are thus melted down and stirred; by which a complete mixture is effected, so that an assay piece may be taken from any part of the bar cast out. The piece taken for this purpose is rolled out for convenience of cutting. It is then taken to an assay balance (sensible to the ten-thousandth of a half gramme or less,) and from it is weighed a half gramme, which is the normal assay weight for gold, being about 7.7 grains troy. This weight is stamped 1000; and all the lesser weights, (afterwards brought into requisition,) are decimal divisions of this weight, down to one ten-thousandth part.

Silver is next weighed out for the quartation; and as the assay-piece, if standard, should contain 900 thousandths of gold, there must be three times this weight, or 2700 thousandths of silver; and this is accordingly the quantity used. It is true that there is already some silver in the alloy, but a little excess over the quantity required for the quartation does no injury to the process.

The lead used for the cupellation is kept prepared in thin sheets, cut into square pieces, which should each weigh about ten times as much as the gold under assay.

The lead is now rolled into the form of a hollow cone;

and into this are introduced the assay gold and the quartation silver, when the lead is closed round them, and pressed into a ball.

The furnace having been properly heated, and the cupels placed in it and brought to the same temperature, the leaden ball, with its contents, is put into one of the cupels, the furnace closed, and the operation allowed to proceed, until all agitation is ceased to be observed in the melted metal, and its surface has become bright.

This is an indication that the whole of the base metals have been converted into oxides and absorbed by the cupel.

The cupellation being thus finished, the metal is allowed to cool slowly, and the disc or *button* which it forms is detached from the cupel.

The button is then flattened by a hammer; is annealed by bringing it to a red heat; is laminated by passing it between rollers; is again annealed; and is rolled loosely into a spiral or coil called a *cornet*. It is now ready for the process of quartation.

For this purpose, it is introduced into a matrass containing about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ounces of nitric acid, at  $22^{\circ}$  of Baumè's hydrometer; and in this acid it is boiled for ten minutes, as indicated by a sand-glass.

The acid is then poured off, and three-fourths of an ounce of stronger acid, at  $32^{\circ}$ , is substituted for it, in which the gold is boiled for ten minutes.

This second acid is then also poured off, and another equal charge of acid of the same strength is introduced, in which the gold is kept for ten minutes longer.

It is then presumed that the whole of the silver has been removed, and the gold is taken out, washed in pure water, and exposed, in a crucible, to a red heat, for the purpose of drying, strengthening, and annealing it.

Lastly, the cornet of fine gold thus formed is placed

in the assay balance, and the number of thousandths which it weighs expresses the fineness of the gold assayed, in thousandths.

### TEST ASSAY.

To test the accuracy of this process, the following method is employed :

A roll of gold, of absolute purity, which has been kept under the seal of the Chairman of the Assay Commissioners, is opened in their presence, and from it is taken the weight of 900 parts. To this are added 75 of copper, and 25 of silver; so as to form, with the gold, a weight of 1000 parts, of the exact legal standard.

This is passed through the same process of assay as the other gold, and at the same time. After the assay is finished, it is evident that the pure gold remaining ought to weigh exactly 900. If, however, from any cause, it be found to differ from this weight, and therefore, to require a correction, it is assumed that the same correction must be made in the other assays, and this is done accordingly.

# ASSAY OF SILVER COINS.

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## PRINCIPLES OF THE OPERATION.

The standard silver of the United States is so constituted, that of 1000 parts by weight, 900 shall be of pure silver, and 100 of copper.

The process of assay requires that the exact proportion of silver in a given weight of the compound be ascertained, and this is done by a method called the *humid assay*, which may be explained as follows:

The silver and copper may both be entirely dissolved in nitric acid; and if to a solution thus made, another of common salt in water be added, the silver will be precipitated in the form of a white powder, which is an insoluble chloride, while the copper will remain unaffected.

Now it has been ascertained that 100 parts by weight of pure salt will convert into chloride of silver just 184.25 parts of pure silver. Consequently the quantity of salt necessary to convert into chloride 1000 parts of silver, is 542.74. as found by the proportion,

$$184.25 : 100 :: 1000 : 542.74.$$

A standard solution of salt is accordingly so prepared, as that a given measure (the French decilitre) shall contain 542.74 thousandths of a gramme, of salt. The normal weight employed for silver assays, is the gramme, (equal to about 15.4 troy grains,) which is marked 1000, and has its subdivisions, in practical weighings, to the half or quarter thousandth.

Besides this standard solution, which effects the main precipitation of chloride of silver, there is a decimal solution, of

one-tenth the proportion of salt, which it is expedient to use for the lesser and final precipitations.

In the mode of assay under consideration, it is necessary that the portion of alloyed silver used shall contain as nearly as may be, 1000 parts of pure silver. The rigid standard requires, that of 1000 parts by weight, 900 shall be of pure silver; but the law allows a variation from this ratio, provided that it do not exceed three-thousandths. The fineness may, therefore, be as low as 897, and as high as 903. In the practice of the assay, it is found most convenient to assume the lower extreme. Now, the weight of metal, of the fineness 897, which would contain 1000 parts of silver, is 1114.83; as found by the proportion,

$$897 : 1000 :: 1000 : 1114.83.$$

The nearest integer to this number is employed, and the weight of metal taken for the assay is 1115.

### PROCESS OF ASSAY.

The reserved silver coins are melted together in a black lead crucible, with the addition of fine charcoal within the pot, to prevent oxidation, and to allow of dipping out. After stirring, a small portion of the fluid metal is poured quickly into water, producing a *granulation*; from which the portion for assay is taken. As this differs from the mode pursued with gold, it must be specially noted, that in the case of silver alloyed with copper, there is a separation, to a greater or less degree, between the two metals in the act of gradual solidification. Thus an ingot cooled in a mould, or any single coin cut out of such ingot, though really 900 thousandths fine on the average, will show such variations, according to the place of cutting, as might even exceed the limits allowed by law. This fact has been established by many experiments, both in this Mint and the Mint of Paris, since the enactment of our Mint law; and it possesses the stubbornness of a law of chemistry. But the sudden chill produced by throwing the liquid metal into water, yields



a granulation of entirely homogeneous mixture, and it can be proved, that the same fineness results, whether by assaying a single granule, or part of one, or a number together.

From this sample the weight of 1115 thousandths is taken ; which is dissolved in a glass bottle, with nitric acid.

Into this solution the large pipette-full of standard solution of salt is introduced, and it produces immediately a white precipitate, which is chloride of silver, and which contains, of the metallic silver, 1000 parts.

To make this chloride subside to the bottom of the vessel, and leave the liquid clear, it is necessary that it be violently shaken in the bottle; and this is accordingly done, by a mechanical arrangement, for the necessary time.

Unless the coins have chanced to be below the allowable limit of standard, the liquid will still contain silver in solution, and accordingly a portion of the decimal solution is introduced, from the small pipette, capable of precipitating a thousandth of silver, and a white cloud of chloride will show itself. More doses are added, if the indications require it.

The liquid is again shaken, and cleared ; and the process is thus repeated, until the addition of the salt water shows only a faint trace of chloride below the upper surface of the liquid.

Let us suppose, for the sake of an example, that three measures of the decimal solution have been used with effect. This will show that the 1115 parts of the coin contained 1003 of pure silver; and thus the proportion of pure silver in the whole alloyed metal is ascertained.

## TEST ASSAY.

For the foregoing process to be exact, it is necessary that the saline solution be of the true standard strength, or be such that the quantity of it, measured in the large pipette, shall be just sufficient to precipitate 1000 parts of silver. This cannot

be assumed without proof, and a test assay is accordingly made as follows.

A roll of silver, known to be of absolute purity, is kept from year to year, in an envelope, under the seal of the Chairman of the Assay Commissioners. This being opened in their presence, a portion of the silver is taken, and 1004 parts carefully weighed off, and submitted to the process of assay described above. If the salt water used be of the exact standard, it is evident that as the solution in the larger pipette will precipitate 1000 parts of silver, four measures of the decimal solution will be required to precipitate the remaining four parts.

But as the normal or standard solution is affected, from day to day, by changes of temperature, or other influences, the finishing decimal doses may be more, or fewer; and the other assays are to be corrected by the proof-piece accordingly.

### CALCULATION OF FINENESS.

By the assay, thus corrected, the number of parts of silver contained in 1115 of the metal under trial, is ascertained; and the fineness, in thousandths, is then found by the proportion: As 1115 is to the number of parts of fine silver, so is 1000 to the fineness of the alloyed silver, in thousandths.

Thus, if the assay show the presence of  $1005\frac{1}{2}$  parts of fine silver, the fineness of the alloyed silver will be 901.8 thousandths, as found by the proportion,—

$$1115 : 1005.5 :: 1000 : 901.79.$$

It is on this principle that the following table is constructed. The numbers at the top and the fractions at the side correspond to the measures of the decimal solution used, corrected by the test assay. The numbers in the body of the table show the corresponding fineness of the assay-piece, of which the weight was 1115 parts.

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
0	896.9	897.7	898.6	899.6	900.4	901.3	902.2
$\frac{1}{4}$	897.1	898.0	898.9	899.8	900.7	901.6	902.5
$\frac{1}{2}$	897.3	898.2	899.1	900.0	900.9	901.8	902.7
$\frac{3}{4}$	897.5	898.4	899.3	900.2	901.1	902.0	902.9

In the testing of single pieces, it is to be expected, that any gold coin, or a cut from any part thereof, will conform faithfully to the bounds prescribed by law. But the silver coins, in addition to the source of error already pointed out (the manner of taking assay samples,) are somewhat liable to show too high a result, from several causes. At certain grades of alloy, and especially the standard of 900, the gradual cooling of ingots will draw the better metal to the interior, and the worst towards the exterior and the edges. Hence the fineness of pieces cut off the central part of the ingot, is higher than the average fineness of the ingot. Again, in casting ingots from a melting pot, the exposure of the metal to the air, during all the time of dipping out, and at the same time, the increase of heat toward the bottom of the pot, unavoidably produces a progressive refining, so that the lower ingot is of a higher quality than the average of the whole melt; and, of course, a coin cut from it will be higher still. Yet with the precautions observed, our silver coins should very rarely exceed the superior limit assigned by law; and there is no good reason why they should fall below the legal limit, unless it be the taking of an unfair sample for assay.



The foregoing rules for the organization and government of the annual Boards of Assay Commissioners were prepared by a committee appointed by the Commission, which met on the second Monday of February, 1856, viz: JOHN K. KANE, Judge of the District Court of the United States, for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, JAMES C. VANDYKE, Attorney of the United States, for the same District, CHARLES BROWN, Collector of the Port of Philadelphia, *ex-officio* Commissioners, and JAMES ROSS SNOWDEN, Director of the Mint.

The Board which convened on the second Monday of February, 1857, was composed of the *ex-officio* Commissioners above named, and DR. AUG. A. HAYES, of Boston, PROF. SOCRATES MAUPIN, of the University of Virginia, MAJOR A. H. BOWMAN, United States Army, and HON. JOHN K. FINDLAY, of Philadelphia, Commissioners specially designated by the President of the United States. At that meeting the following proceedings were had:

The rules for the organization and government of the Board of Commissioners, as prepared by the committee, appointed at the last annual meeting, were then read and no modification or alteration thereof being suggested, the Chairman, JUDGE KANE, announced that they would be recognized as the rules for the organization and government of the Board.

The following communication was received from the Director of the Mint, viz:—

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES,  
*Philadelphia, February 9th, 1857.*

DEAR SIR:—I desire to call the attention of the Board of Assay Commissioners now convened to the circumstance that, within a recent period, important and material improvements have been made in the Mint edifice, for the purpose of render-

ing it entirely fire-proof, and to give additional security to the treasure deposited in its vaults.

These improvements have been made in consequence of an appropriation made by Congress on the recommendation of the HON. JAMES GUTHRIE, Secretary of the Treasury, to whom it was suggested that the building was insecure, and the arrangement of the rooms appropriated to the different branches of business might be materially improved.

In view of this subject, I respectfully suggest to the Board whether it might not be advantageous and proper that an examination of the Mint building be made, and an inquiry instituted whether any further improvements are necessary to render the Mint more efficient or give additional security to the bullion and coin deposited therein, and whether any additional facilities are required for the annual assay at the Mint.

I have the honor to be, with great respect, your obedient servant,

JAMES ROSS SNOWDEN,

*Director of the Mint.*

HON. JOHN K. KANE,

*Chairman of the Board of Assay Commissioners.*

Which communication having been read, was, on motion, referred to a committee composed of DR. HAYES, of Boston, PROF. MAUPIN, of Virginia, and the chairman of the Board of Commissioners, JUDGE KANE.

Subsequently—on the 11th of February—the committee reported the following resolution, through DR. HAYES, which was, on motion, unanimously adopted by the Board, viz:—

*Resolved*, That the committee, to whom was referred the communication from the Director of the Mint, be allowed to report after the adjournment of the Board, and that the report then made be placed upon the record.

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE.

The committee to whom was referred the communication addressed by the Director of the Mint to the Chairman of the Board of Assay Commissioners report that, in accordance with the suggestion of said communication, they have examined the Mint edifice, and the interior arrangements for conducting the coinage.

They have witnessed with satisfaction the changes and improvements recently made in the building. They appear to have been judiciously planned, and executed in such a manner as to give the highest security against fire from within or without. Iron and brick work have been substituted for wood in almost every part of the building. Thin board floors have been laid in most of the rooms from considerations of comfort and convenience, but they rest directly upon iron and bricks in the manner of thick carpet, and every safeguard has been added to render them secure from fire.

In its present condition, the edifice may be justly regarded as eminently fire-proof.

The rooms for receiving deposits for melting, assaying, separating, rolling and cutting, adjusting, coining, and finishing, were visited, and found highly satisfactory in all their arrangements for the despatch, economy, and accuracy of the various operations conducted therein. Very perfect ventilation and abundance of light are also secured in all the rooms in which the nature of the operations carried on renders these provisions necessary. An apparatus for warming, which during the late cold weather has proved satisfactory, has been substituted for former imperfect arrangements, and which is also secure, while various conveniences essential to health are complete.

The several vaults for the deposit of bullion and coin appear to be secure—from fire they certainly are; and, with a single exception, they may defy the ingenuity and perseverance of

the burglar, and with respect to this exception, means are about being taken to render this vault entirely secure.

A laboratory for the Mint is now being fitted up in the basement of the building, and, when completed, will leave nothing to be desired for the present to render the building complete in all its arrangements for the efficient prosecution of the various and important operations directly connected with the coinage. Experience, the progress of discovery and invention, and the exigencies of the public service, it may be expected, will from time to time suggest further additions and changes; but the same enlightened policy which has dictated the recent improvements will doubtless be directed in future to continue the institution in the responsible position of high efficiency and reputation it now occupies, in giving uniformity to the coinage of the country.

The committee deem it not inappropriate to give expression on the present occasion to the high gratification they have experienced in witnessing the evidences afforded by the recent assay, of the skill, accuracy, and fidelity with which the various departments of the coinage appear to be conducted. In regard to the annual assay, we may remark that proper facilities are provided for conducting the same, and that the committee cannot suggest anything further which is desirable on this point. In the assays made in accordance with the rules adopted by the Board, the samples were selected in such a manner that the officers of the Mint were unacquainted with the sources from which they were taken, and the processes were carried on under the constant inspection of the members of the commission. The results showed a correspondence with the legal standard, and the trials were highly satisfactory. In conclusion, the committee take pleasure in stating that the institution, in their opinion, is conducted and maintained in such a manner as to merit the highest confidence of the government and the public.

AUG. A. HAYES,	}	<i>Committee.</i>
S. MAUPIN,		
J. K. KANE,		

97  
INSTRUCTIONS

*Geo. W. Biddle Esq.*  
*with the sanction*  
RELATIVE TO THE  
*of J. R. V.*

TRANSACTION OF BUSINESS

AT THE

Mint of the United States,

AND ITS BRANCHES.

PRESCRIBED BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE MINT.

*Samuel R. Anderson.*

PHILADELPHIA :

BENJAMIN F. MIFFLIN, PRINTER, WALNUT ST.

1858.



# INSTRUCTIONS

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PREScribed BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE MINT.



PHILADELPHIA :

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1858.

**INSTRUCTIONS**  
**RELATIVE TO THE TRANSACTION OF BUSINESS AT THE**  
**MINT OF THE UNITED STATES,**  
**AND ITS BRANCHES.**

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**(A) OF THE PURCHASE OF BULLION FOR COINAGE ON BEHALF  
OF THE UNITED STATES.**

1. All bullion deposited at any of these institutions shall be weighed in the presence of the Treasurer, the Register of the deposits, and the depositor or his agent, or an opportunity given to such depositor or his agent to witness the same. But if the bullion be of less value than one hundred dollars, (which may be nearly enough judged by its weight and appearance) or if it be so base as to be deemed unsuitable for the operations of the Mint, it may be legally refused. The weigh clerk and the Register will enter in their respective books the name of the depositor, the date of each deposit, the kind of bullion, and the State or Country from whence it is derived, if it can be ascertained; if the deposit is foreign coin, the country where it is coined will be stated, except where it is composed of mixed coins, in which case an estimate may be made of the coinage, if reasonably practicable; if not, it may be stated to be "mixed foreign coins."

2. If the bullion be not in such state before melting that its value can be ascertained, the chief officer of the institution will adopt every possible guard to insure its safety in being carried from the weigh-room to the deposit melting-room, and until it

is there melted and brought back to the weigh-room to be re-weighed; which re-weighing shall be made by the persons before mentioned, and careful entries thereof made in their respective books. A table of all deposits requiring a melt before assay, shall be made at the end of each week. It shall give the number of the deposit, the name of the depositor, the description of bullion, and the weights respectively before and after melting, and the loss in weight, as well as the per centage loss. This statement shall be handed to the melter and refiner, who will carefully examine the same, and note on the table whether the differences in the weights before and after melting, are such as are usual and ordinary, and fairly resulting from the nature of the deposit, in each case. The table will then be submitted to the chief officer of the institution for his examination and his action thereon, if necessary, and be preserved in his office.

3. If the bullion deposited is gold, containing a considerable quantity of silver, it will be so noted in the weigh books, and so also in the opposite case; and the bullion will be entered in the gold or silver weighing book, according as the gold or silver appears to excel in weight. If there are several parcels, they are weighed separately according to the wishes of the depositor, but it is not usual to make distinct assays of separate parcels belonging to the same individual unless for some sufficient reason. The weights before melting are expressed in the left hand of the two sets of columns of the book in ounces and decimal parts of an ounce, and the weight after melting in the right hand column.

4. In receiving deposits, gold is weighed to the one hundredth (.01) of an ounce, and silver to the five hundredths (.05) of an ounce. Less weights than these are not used in receiving deposits, but where the balance indicates a near approach to the .01 for gold, or .05 for silver, the slight deficiency is disregarded, and the full figures are set down.

5. The Treasurer gives a receipt for the weight before melting, which the depositor is required to surrender to the Mint when

he calls for payment of his deposit. If the depositor gives his receipt to a third party, he must indorse it before doing so.

6. After the deposits are melted, the Treasurer shall deliver to the Assayer, from each parcel of bullion, a sufficient portion for the purpose of being assayed, which shall be returned to the Treasurer, as is provided by the tenth section of the Mint law. The Melter and Refiner will then re-weigh each deposit separately, and compare the weights with those furnished him by the Treasurer, in order that discrepancies, if any, may be detected and corrected; and after adding in the weights returned by the Assayer, will ascertain whether the total weight of a certain number of deposits agrees with that of the Treasurer:

7. In order to secure the bullion in passing through the several operating rooms, it shall be placed in boxes so constructed that when placed on each other they will not slide laterally, and several such piles being placed on a car, the uppermost series shall be covered with a strong sheet-iron cover with a continuous rim of at least two inches projecting downwards, and the whole secured by a chain passing lengthwise over the series, and so constructed that it may be locked at different links according to the height on the piles of each car. One key of such lock shall be placed in the hands of the foreman, while superintending operations on the bullion, and another in the hands of the officer to whom the bullion is charged.

8. It is the duty of the Weigher to see that the usual and proper limits of loss on melting deposits are not exceeded, or if they are, to satisfy himself that the peculiarity of the case justified it.

It has been ascertained as near as practicable what should be the ordinary loss, and what the extreme limit of loss, in melting gold and silver deposits preparatory to the assay, if the bullion has been carefully melted.

The following statement of losses will be useful on this point.

*Gold. Loss in weight.*

Description.	Of parcels of 5 ozs. to 20 ozs.		20 ozs. to 100 ozs.		100 ozs. to 500 ozs.	
	Ordinary.	Extreme.	Ordinary.	Extreme.	Ordinary.	Extreme.
Clean bars, lumps and cakes,	.01	.02	.01	.05	.03	.25
Grains and dust, average loss } 3 per cent; if very clean, 1 } per ct.; dirty, 4 to 5 per ct. }						
Coins, - - -	.01	.02	.01	.08	.03	.15
Jewelry and plate,* - -	.01	.02	.01	.05	.03	.25
Amalgam, irregular and un- } certain. }						
Laminated, - - -	.01	.02	.01	.05	.03	.25

*Silver.*

Description.	Deduction if not melted.	Ordinary loss if melted.	Extreme loss if not melted.
1. Bars, Pigs and test bottoms, clean, }	$\frac{1}{16}$ of 1 per ct.	$\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 per ct.	$\frac{1}{4}$ of 1 per ct.
2. The same, not clean, Must be melted,		$\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 per ct.	$\frac{1}{4}$ of 1 per ct.
3. Coins,	$\frac{1}{1000}$ of an oz. per 1000,	$\frac{1}{16}$ of 1 per ct.	$\frac{1}{4}$ of 1 per ct.
4. Jewelry and Plate, Must be melted,		$\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 per ct.	$\frac{1}{4}$ of 1 per ct.
5. Amalgam, Must be melted,		2 to 5 per ct.	5 to 10 per ct.

The "extreme loss" on coins, refers to such as the small Spanish, and other small coins, &c.

N. B. Clean bars of gold are frequently melted in small quantities without any loss, and when a single lot is deposited and appears to have been well melted, it is sometimes assayed without re-melting, and of course reported without loss. The above estimate of losses on gold supposes that a protective flux (as borax or soda ash,) has been used. A refining flux (as nitre,) is not used in melting for assay, unless the metal be in a very impure and intractable condition; in which case, as the loss will be uncertain and considerable, the depositor ought to be informed in regard to the process. In every case of melting the depositor has the benefit of the grains in the flux, which in each case is separately ground and washed, and also the benefit of the scrapings of the pot.

9. As soon as the weight after melting (and after deduction where melting is dispensed with) is ascertained, one of the

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\* Uncertain on account of solder, &c.

Treasurer's clerks will transcribe the date of the deposit, name of the depositor, description and number of bullion, and weight after melting, upon a blank, called the Assayer's Report. This is taken to the Assayer, who, at the same time, or previously, cuts off such small portions of the gold bullion as may be necessary for his operations; and takes the granulations of silver for the same purpose.

10. The Assayer will insert in the report, the fineness of the bullion, and the fineness of the gold or silver parted therefrom, provided the precious metal contained shall be worth one dollar or more, after allowing for cost of parting and necessary alloy. He will also state in the report the charges or deductions to which the deposit is subject.

The following rate of charges has been adopted on deposits of gold and silver bullion at the Mint in Philadelphia, the Branch Mint at New Orleans, and the Assay Office at New York.

I. *For toughening or refining.* When metals are contained in the bullion, which render it unfit for coinage:

1. *On gold*, from one to three and a half cents per ounce of gross weight after melting, according to the condition of the metal.

2. *On silver*, if not coppery, one-third cent per ounce, as above. If coppery, one-half cent to one cent.

II. *For separating the Gold and Silver.*—Where these metals exist together in the bullion.

1. If not coppery.

<i>Proportion of Gold.</i>			<i>Charges.</i>			
1 to 200 thousandths.			1½	cents	per ounce	gross after melting.
201 " 600	"	2	"	"	"	"
601 " 700	"	3	"	"	"	"
701 " 800	"	4	"	"	"	"
801 " 946	"	5	"	"	"	"

## 2. If coppery.

<i>Proportion of Silver.</i>		<i>Charges.</i>			
500 to 700 fine, the gold in any proportion not less than $1\frac{1}{2}$ thous.		3 cents per ounce gross after melting			
701 " 800 "		$2\frac{1}{2}$	"	"	"
801 " 925 "		2	"	"	"

*Note.*—The distinction used in the language of the Mint laws, between *refining* and *separating*, is observed in the foregoing items of charge. Refining here refers only to the use of fluxes, for taking out base metals; or, in case of iridosmium (commonly called iridium), to repeated meltings and subsidence, or whatever other method may be found most expedient. It will occasionally happen that a deposit is to be charged both for refining and separating; as, where it is desirable, first to remove refractory metals, so that they may not embarrass the parting process, or reappear in the parted metal.

3. *Limit to the separating of Gold and Silver.*—Neither gold or silver shall be separated for the benefit of the depositor, when the net product of operation, estimated upon the above charges, shall be less than one dollar.

11. At the Branch Mints at Charlotte and Dahlonega, the parting charge is 12 cents per ounce; and at San Francisco, 14 cents per ounce, irrespective of proportions.\*

12. The Assayer's Report is then put into the hands of one of the Treasurer's clerks, specially charged with the calculation of deposits, who will transfer the fineness therein given to a sheet forming the abstract of bullion deposits. This clerk shall make the necessary calculation, based upon the weight and fineness of the deposit as reported, and enter his result in the several columns found upon the sheet or abstract. When this operation has been completed, the abstract exhibits the entire history

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\* The gold of California being above 800 thousandths fine, the charge was originally fixed at eleven cents, but was changed to fourteen cents, at the request of the Superintendent, and on his representation of the cost attending the refining operations at that place.

of a deposit, beginning with the weight after melting, and closing with its net value, and the mode of its payment.

13. The Director's (or Superintendent's) clerk, before filling the warrant for the payment of a depositor, will ascertain the correctness of the net value on the abstract, multiplying the weight after melting of the deposit by the net value (given in tables prepared for that purpose,) of an ounce of gold at the particular fineness reported. If he agrees with the Treasurer's clerk, the warrants for payments are filled up and signed by the Director (or Superintendent.) One of the Treasurer's clerks then makes out an assay memorandum, stating the transaction in detail, and giving the net value of each parcel for the use and satisfaction of the depositor.

14. When the depositor presents his receipt, he will sign the receipt on the back of the warrant and the duplicate in the register of warrants. The coin is then paid to him, and he receives likewise the memorandum above mentioned.

15. A press copy of the calculations as spread upon the abstract of bullion deposits is retained in the Mint, Branch Mint, or Assay Office.

16. The Act of 4th March, 1853, c. 97, page 62, of Mint Pamphlet, requires the profits of the Mint to be transferred annually to the treasury of the United States. In the abstract of bullion deposits, the charge of a half per cent. for coinage must be credited to "bullion deposit, profit and loss," transferable to the treasury of the United States.

The deductions from depositors being the charges for parting and for manufacturing bars, and all other charges authorized to be made at the principal Mint, and the Branch Mints at New Orleans and San Francisco, and the Assay Office at New York, must at the end of each quarter, or oftener, if necessary, be paid into the treasury of the United States, to the credit of the respective appropriations for the ordinary expenses of these institutions. At the Branch Mints of Dahlonega and Charlotte, the foregoing charges must be placed quarterly to the credit of



the Treasurer of the United States. The funds available by law for the ordinary expenses of the Mints and Assay Office, having thus been placed in the treasury of the United States, to the credit of the above appropriation, requisitions for the same may be made on the Secretary of the Treasury in the same manner as on the specific appropriation. The same course will be observed in relation to the silver parted for the benefit of the Mint at the different institutions.

The premium allowed on the silver purchased and parted, must be charged to "Silver Purchase Profit and Loss," the balance to the credit of which account is transferable to the treasury of the United States. When a transfer is made at any of the Branch Mints and at the Assay Office, the Superintendent thereof will report the same to the Director of the Mint.

(B) OF THE ACCOUNTS OF OFFICERS IN THE MINT, BRANCH MINTS,  
AND ASSAY OFFICE.

1. The only officers who account with each other, are the Treasurer with the Melter and Refiner, and the Treasurer with the Coiner; and in receiving and paying deposits, and in making transfers of bullion and clippings, these officers either attend personally or by their delegated representatives. The small parcels of bullion which are employed by the Assayer in his operations, are in point of law within the custody of the Melter and Refiner.

2. From time to time the Treasurer will deliver gold and silver bullion and clippings to the Melter and Refiner; both these officers will make entries of these deliveries in their books. The Melter and Refiner is charged with the standard weight of deposits, after their quality has been reported by the Assayer, and with the actual weight of clippings, which are always presumed to be of standard fineness.

3. When the ingots or fine gold bars have been prepared by the Melter and Refiner, assay slips are to be taken off from the first and last ingot of each melt, or from a small fine gold bar, by the Assayer, who will report the fineness of such as are within the proper limits; if not within such limits, they are reported as condemned, and must be remelted by the Melter and Refiner. The Act of 18th January, 1837, provides, that gold ingots for coinage, may vary from 898 to 902, but the practice is rarely to pass gold ingots varying more than from 899.5 to 900.5, and silver ingots from 898 to 902.5. Fine gold bars may be reported when they have a fineness of 990 or more.

4. The Assayer's reports of approved ingots are kept on file by the Treasurer. The ingots having been approved, the Coiner, Melter and Refiner, and Treasurer, or their delegates, attend at the weighing, and three accounts must be taken of the weights at the time. It is necessary that the Coiner should attend (as well as the Melter and Refiner,) because the ingots are

weighed but once, and the delivery to the Treasurer by the Melter and Refiner, is simultaneous with the delivery by the Treasurer to the Coiner.

5. In weighing gold and silver ingots and bullion, the maximum weight, which the scale-beam is calculated to bear, should not be exceeded; and the largest number of ingots of the various denominations, within the limit above mentioned, should be placed upon the scale (the number varying with the different denominations), and accurately weighed, and the account kept by each officer in ounces and hundredths of an ounce, the  $\frac{1}{100}$ th of an ounce being the smallest weight used in weighing gold, and the tenth of an ounce the smallest weight used in weighing silver.

6. Whenever the Coiner makes a delivery of coins to the Treasurer, he will give notice to the latter to attend at the weighing, at which time it is to be ascertained that the coins are within the limits prescribed by law, agreeably to the 25th and 26th sections of the Act of January 18, 1837. The coins being approved are delivered to the Treasurer by tale—their standard weight is deduced therefrom by calculation, and so charged.

7. At the time of such delivery, the Assayer will also attend, and the Treasurer will take one piece for every \$30,000 of double eagles; one piece for every \$20,000 of eagles; one piece for every \$10,000 half eagles; one piece for every \$10,000 quarter eagles; and ten pieces will be taken from every delivery of gold dollars, to the amount of \$50,000—if a less amount is delivered, the assay pieces will be proportionately less. The Treasurer takes one piece for every 5,000 pieces of silver without regard to the denomination.\* The assay pieces will be taken before the actual delivery of the coins (agreeably to section 27th); such pieces will be noted in the book kept for the purpose, stating their numbers, kind, weight, value, and to what

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\* At the Branch Mint, San Francisco, in order to avoid the transmission of considerable amounts of coin by mail, only one-half of the number of assay pieces herein prescribed is taken.

warrants they correspond; at the principal Mint they will be kept and secured in the manner prescribed by the 27th section of the Mint law. At the Branch Mints, the assay pieces, after being taken in the manner prescribed by said section, are required to be carefully secured, and enveloped, and transmitted monthly by mail to the Director of the Mint.

8. At the close of the quarter, the Treasurer, Coiner, and Melter and Refiner, sum up each in his own book appropriated for that purpose, the various deliveries of bullion, ingots, clippings and coins. If all accounts agree in standard weight and value, the Director's (or Superintendent's) clerk will make out warrants for the same, as if the various daily deliveries of each kind constituted one delivery, at the end of the quarter. These warrants are signed by the Director, (or Superintendent,) receipted on the back by the proper officer, and form the basis of the Treasurer's journal entries; they will be forwarded also to the first Auditor at Washington, quarterly, with the other vouchers of the Treasurer. The Coiner, and Melter and Refiner, furnish quarterly abstracts of their accounts, to be forwarded, with the Treasurer's counter statements thereof, to the auditing department at Washington.

9. Once, at least, in every year, at such time as the Director shall appoint, the Coiner, and Melter and Refiner, shall deliver up to the Treasurer all the coins and bullion in their possession, accompanied with statements of the two officers just named, of the amount of bullion of each kind, (gold or silver,) received and returned by them respectively during the year; also, the amount returned for the purpose of settlement, and the sum of the difference between the amounts charged and the amounts credited to them respectively.

10. The Melter and Refiner shall be charged at the end of each quarter, with the amount parted for the benefit of the Mint, and not for depositors; and he shall present once in every year a fair estimate of the proceeds, after deducting all charges of such sweeps as he may have not smelted, such estimate to be verified by trials and calculations of the Assayer; and if the Coiner's, and Melter and Refiner's accounts shall be found just, and the Director (or Superintendent) be well satisfied that there

has been a *bona fide* waste of the precious metals, he shall allow the same by his warrants, provided the claim do not exceed the limits prescribed in sections twenty-three and twenty-nine of the law already referred to.

11. Any of the duties herein enjoined upon the operative officers and the Treasurer may be performed by an assistant, clerk or employee, who may be designated for that purpose, but this authorization being for the convenience of the officers, and the proper despatch of business, is not to be considered as impairing their own responsibilities for the bullion placed in their custody.

*Note.*—The amount of silver alloy left in a deposit of silvery gold, is based upon the estimate that the gold is refined to 990. In order to make this into standard gold, it is necessary to add 100 parts of copper; there being 10 parts of silver therein not parted out. This gives the proportion of silver alloy as compared with the mass, as 1 to 110, or  $\frac{1}{110}$ th. Now  $\frac{1}{110}$ th of the mass, or of the standard weight of the gold, shows the amount of pure silver contained, and this is equal to  $\frac{1}{110}$ th of the same for standard silver. In the abstract it is stated that  $\frac{1}{110}$ th of the standard weight of gold, gives the standard weight of silver left therein, and the remainder of the silver constitutes the amount parted out for the benefit of the depositor. By this arrangement it becomes unnecessary to keep an account of silver alloy, as heretofore, when the total amount of the silver was charged to the Melter and Refiner, and he was afterward credited with the silver alloy, although it was only *theoretically* put back by him into the gold.

12. As it is highly important to secure uniformity in our gold coinage, all deposits of native gold, or gold not previously refined, should be assayed for silver, without exception, and refined to from 990 to 993, say averaging 991, as near as may be. When any of the deposits prove to be 990, or finer, they should be reserved to be mixed with the refined gold. The gold coin of the Mint and its Branches will then be nearly thus, gold 900, silver 8, copper 92; and thus a greater uniformity of color will be attained than was heretofore accomplished.

*Note.*—The instructions on this point were prescribed by the Director of the Mint, in September, 1853.

THE ACCOUNTS OF THE ORDINARY EXPENSES OF THE MINT, THE  
BRANCH MINTS, AND THE ASSAY OFFICE.

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THESE ACCOUNTS ARE CLASSIFIED AS FOLLOWS:

1. *Salaries of Officers and Clerks.*

These are paid quarterly. Pay rolls are made up according to forms furnished, containing details as to occupation, time and amounts paid. These are receipted; a duplicate is retained in the Mint. The original is enclosed in the warrant of the Director (or Superintendent), which is issued for the total amount of the pay roll, and will be sent with the quarterly account to Washington.

2. *Wages of Workmen.*

These are paid monthly. Duplicate pay-rolls will be prepared as in the preceding case; a duplicate retained on file at the Mint, Branch Mint, or Assay Office, and the original enclosed in a warrant of the Director (or Superintendent), will be sent with the quarterly account.

3. *Incidental and Contingent Expenses.*

Previous to the obtaining of any articles necessary for any of these institutions, a requisition for such supplies must be made by the proper officer of each department, on the Director (or Superintendent at a Branch Mint,) stating the article and price, and, if approved, an order for the same is issued. The articles will be delivered to the department ordering the same, and shall be compared with the order therefor, as to quality, quantity and price, and the bills (in duplicate) must be examined and certified to be correct. Regular accounts shall be kept of the supplies, and an entry made of every order issued, and the account books will show to what purpose the articles are applied. The bills stating the items in detail, having been

examined and certified as above, are placed in the hands of the Director (or Superintendent,) by whom a warrant is issued for their payment. This warrant (with the bills) is then placed in the Treasurer's hands. When payment is demanded, the duplicate bills are to be receipted by the party to whom payment is due, or by some one authorized in writing to receive the payment, and a receipt is also taken on the foot of the warrant. The warrant is entered on the "Register of Warrants Paid," and the proper number and date attached. One of the bills is enclosed in the warrant, which is to be presented to the paying clerk for payment. The duplicate bill is placed on file.

The moneys of this account are derived from the specific appropriations made by law for the salaries of officers and clerks, wages of workmen, and incidental and contingent expenses, for the several institutions herein named; and also from the charges and deductions available by law for their support, and are made thus available in the manner hereinbefore mentioned.

A journal and ledger account is kept, in which all moneys received are charged to the Treasurer of the Mint, and credited to the United States.

At the close of each quarter, the accounts of "Salaries of Officers and Clerks," "Wages of Workmen," "Incidental and Contingent Expenses," respectively, are charged, and the "Treasurer of the Mint" credited with the total amount paid under each head during the quarter. These several accounts are closed at the same time by the account of "the United States."

The books belonging to the ordinary account, are the journal and ledger, register of warrants paid, register of petty expenses, and register of appropriations.

*The Register of Warrants Paid*, exhibits in separate columns the date of payment, number of warrant, to whom paid, for what paid, amount paid in two columns, one for incidental and contingent expenses, and the other for salaries and wages.

*The Register of Petty Expenses*. All bills of ten dollars and less, are paid without a separate warrant for each bill. They are entered in a register, giving in separate columns, date, number, name, for what paid, and amounts. Each bill is indorsed

with its number, name and date, and at the close of the quarter an abstract of the petty expense register is prepared, which, with the petty bills indorsed, is covered by a warrant of the Director (or Superintendent,) if ascertained to be correct, in favor of the Treasurer of the Mint, or Branch Mint, for the whole amount. This warrant is entered on the "Register of Warrants Paid," all the petty payments being thus regarded as paid on the last day of the quarter.

*The Register of Appropriations.* This book will exhibit on the debit side in separate columns, the annual appropriations by Congress for salaries, wages, &c., and the deductions from depositors and other items, transferred from time to time to the Treasury of the United States, and on the credit side in corresponding columns, the amount from time to time drawn from the United States Treasury.

At the close of each quarter, a statement of the ordinary account is rendered to the first Auditor of the Treasury. This account consists of 1. A cash account, being an abstract of the journal entries. 2. Abstracts from the register of warrants paid, viz: abstract of warrants paid for the incidental and contingent expenses; abstract of warrants paid for wages of workmen; abstract of salaries of officers and clerks, (as the salaries are paid quarterly, the pay-roll is a sufficient abstract.) The warrants belonging to each of these heads, with its appropriate abstract, are to be separately enveloped and indorsed.



GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR THE MINT AND ITS BRANCHES.

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1. The Act of 18th January, 1837, and subsequent laws compiled in the Mint Pamphlet, and such subsequent laws as may be from time to time passed, shall be regarded as presenting the general duties of the several officers of the Mint, its Branches, and the Assay Office.

2. It is required of each officer to give his personal attendance during Mint hours, except he be unavoidably or necessarily absent, in which case he shall be represented by his assistant or representative, where such assistant or representative has been or may be authorized by the proper authority; such officer being responsible for the acts of his assistant or representative. A regular attendance of the assistants, clerks, and workmen, shall be enforced during such hours as the chief officer may require.

3. When temporary appointments are made as authorized by the fourth Section of the General Mint Law, the fact of such appointment, and the cause of it, will be reported to the Secretary of the Treasury, through the Director of the Mint.

4. Visits for information, or to witness the operations of the Mint, may be permitted by the chief officer of the institution, in such manner, however, as to cause no interruption to the officers, clerks, and workmen, in their appropriate duties, or occasion exposure of the precious metals or coin.

5. The chief officer at each institution will, at the end of each month, make an examination similar to that presented by the twelfth Section of the Act of the 6th of August, 1846, and make a report thereof through the Director to the Treasury Department. A similar report will be made by the Director in respect to the principal Mint.

6. An examination will also be made at the end of each quarter, and oftener, if necessary, of the general condition of the respective institutions, and the manner in which the operations have been conducted; a report of which examination shall be made as above provided.

7. Care will be taken to secure the bullion and coin either in locked pans or boxes, with spring locks, during the usual minting or bar making process; and at the end of each day's operations, such bullion and coin shall be carefully placed in the vaults of the institution.

8. No profit can accrue to any officer, clerk, or workman of these institutions, by reasons of the legitimate operations thereof, and no private or extra official work can be done therein, with or without compensation or reward, by any such officer, clerk, or workman. If this rule be violated by any officer or clerk, the fact shall be reported to the Treasury Department. If violated by any workman, he will be forthwith dismissed.

9. The number of workmen employed shall be regulated by the amount of work to be performed; a due regard being had to economy and the public service.

10. The several officers who are charged with the custody of bullion, shall be debited and credited with the same, in the manner prescribed in the general Mint law, and the subsequent enactments on that subject.

11. Each officer will keep a regular set of books, showing their transactions with each other; and the operative officers will keep pass-books of their daily transactions with the Treasurer, and will, at the end of every week, compare their accounts with those kept by the Treasurer. This last named officer will ascertain, at the close of each day, the amount of coin in his hands.

12. A sufficient number of trustworthy persons will be em-

ployed as watchmen, doorkeepers, &c. The watchmen will relieve the messengers in charge at 6 o'clock, P. M., and will in their turn be relieved by the messengers in charge at 6 o'clock, A. M. Rounds will be prescribed by the Director (or Superintendent), who will devise such mode of securing proper vigilance, on the part of the watchmen and others, as he may deem expedient.

13. The messengers, doorkeepers, &c., at the end of office hours, and the workmen, at the end of working hours, will severally close the doors, window-shutters, and other fastenings, and put everything in its proper place and in a state of security, in their respective portions of the building. At the end of working hours, the messengers and doorkeepers in charge of the buildings shall make a careful examination throughout, to see that the fastenings are secure, the fires safe, and no one concealed in the building. When relieved by the watchmen, at 6 o'clock, P. M., the watchmen shall repeat the same inspection and examination, and the messengers and doorkeepers, as soon as they relieve the watchmen, at 6 o'clock, A. M., will again repeat this inspection.

14. The watchmen will be furnished with fire and other arms, kept in constant readiness for immediate use.

15. Such holidays will be allowed as are usual at the place where the Mint, Branch, or Assay Office is situated, and the afternoons of Saturdays, from 2 o'clock.

16. The principal officer of each department of business will report to the Director (or Superintendent) any instance of neglect of duty, or want of fidelity, in any of the persons employed in his department, and also make a like report if he has reason to suspect the integrity of any person so employed. This information will be communicated as soon as it comes to the knowledge of the officer, and without any delay.

17. The Chief Coiner will prepare and present, at the end of each month, a statement exhibiting the loss or wastage in each

of the operations of his department, as follows:—1. Loss in rolling, including annealing. 2. Loss in cutting. 3. Loss in adjusting, assorting and milling. 4. Loss in cleaning and whitening. 5. Loss in striking, if any.

18. The Melter and Refiner will prepare, and present at the end of each month, a statement exhibiting the amount of gold and silver bullion operated upon, and the result of his enquiries, checks and weighings, to ascertain the wastage thereon.

19. These statements will show the amount of bullion operated upon, the aggregate loss, and the loss per thousandth.

20. It shall be at the option of the Director (or the Superintendent at a Branch Mint) to permit or require work of the men before or after the prescribed hours; but for all such overwork, or where more than ten hours labor is performed, extra pay shall be allowed, at the rate of one-tenth of a day's wages per hour.

21. A roll shall be kept by each officer, to be noted day by day, of the actual attendance of the workmen employed in his proper branch of business, which will be reported, at the end of each month, to the Director (or Superintendent). He will also make to such officer, at the end of each month, a confidential report, for the purpose of keeping him advised of the habits of attention, the skill, sobriety and fidelity of each workman, or the reverse. This report must be in writing, and presented as soon after the close of each month as it can conveniently be prepared.

22. The hours for commencing and ending work will be communicated to the workmen by their respective officers.

23. The bell shall be rung by the doorkeepers at the hours prescribed for commencing and ending work, and at 12 o'clock.

24. During the working hours, none of the men can leave the institution without permission from their officers, and it

shall be the duty of the foreman to report to their officers any absences during such hours.

25. If any foreman or workman is absent without leave of his proper officer, a deduction shall be made from such person's wages, if for part of a day, at the rate of one-tenth of a day's wages per hour; and any absences without such leave, either for part of a day or for one or more days, shall be a cause of dismissal, on the report of the proper officer to the Director (or Superintendent). Applications for leave of absence shall be made in writing, stating the cause of such application. If the officer, in whose department such applicant is employed, is of opinion that the reasons are satisfactory, he will so indorse it, whereupon it will be presented to the Director (or Superintendent) for his action thereon.

26. A reasonable time will be allowed for dinner, which will be brought to the building by the men; but if sent to them, must be received and distributed by the messengers and door-keepers.

27. The workmen must not pass from the rooms in which they are employed into those appropriated for other operations.

28. Smoking is prohibited in the Mint and its Branches.

JAMES ROSS SNOWDEN,  
*Director of the Mint.*